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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

O.J. Simpson assets: A memorabilia collector has refused to hand over O.J. Simpson's press credentials from the 1984 Olympics, ignoring a judge's order to satisfy a \$33.5 million award in a lawsuit that found Simpson liable for the deaths of his ex-wife and her friend.

The order was issued in November to Alfred Beardsley after a closed-door court hearing to determine whether Simpson was hiding assets from the family of Ron Goldman, who was slain with Nicole Brown Simpson in 1994. Beardsley said attorneys for the Goldman family had given him until Monday to turn over the credentials, which he now believes were stolen from Simpson, along with other items the former football star kept in storage after he moved to Florida.

Robert Blake trial: A former assistant testifying in Robert Blake's murder trial told jurors she unwittingly helped the actor kidnap his daughter and feared immediately afterward that he had "done away" with the baby.

Cody Blackwell told how Blake asked her to pose as a nurse in 2000 and take the baby, Rosie, to her house while he took Bonny Lee Bakley to lunch. Blackwell said Blake confided to her that he had gotten a woman pregnant and "hated her."

Cosby accusations: The attorney hired to defend comedian Bill Cosby from allegations he fondled a female acquaintance questioned Friday why the woman took a year to come forward.

The woman was formerly an employee at Philadelphia's Temple University, Cosby's beloved alma mater. She told police this month in her native Canada that Cosby fondled her at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in January 2004.

Fresno murders: Attorneys say they could spend as much as a month screening potential jurors in a trial of a man charged with the shooting deaths of nine of his children.

Among 2,200 potential jurors has been summoned to appear in Fresno County Superior Court in California for the start of jury selection in the trial of Marcus Wesson, the only one to emerge alive March 12, 2004, from a house where police discovered nine bodies in a bloody tangle and 10 white coffins stacked against the living room walls.

Each victim had been shot once in the eye — the youngest a 1-year-old toddler, the oldest a 25-year-old woman whose child was



JOHN E. WOODS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

New uniform trial: Petty Officer 1st Class James E. Crocker receives identification cards of military personnel before allowing them to enter Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan. Crocker is one of more than 50 base personnel wear-testing the new Task Force Uniform. Four styles of uniforms are being tested Navy-wide.

among the dead. Wesson faces nine murder charges, and more than a dozen counts of sexual abuse. No gunpowder residue was found on his hands. He could be put to death if convicted.

Videotaping arrest: A Pakistani man taken into custody after a police officer saw him videotaping downtown skyscrapers was sentenced to six months in prison on several charges — none related to terrorism activities.

Kamran Akhtar, 36, was sentenced Monday on five immigration charges, including failure to follow a court order to leave the United States, possessing false identification cards and making false statements to investigators.

World

Hamas cease-fire offer: The top Hamas leader said his militant group is prepared to suspend attacks if Israel stops targeting militants and agrees to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners, according to an interview published Tuesday.

The apparent softening of Hamas' position raised hopes that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas would soon reach a formal cease-fire with militant groups that would pave the way for a new round of peace talks with Israel.

Kuwait terrorism: Kuwaiti police have referred six suspected militants to prosecu-

tors, believing they should be charged with either planning terrorist attacks or failing to report their knowledge of such plans, an Interior Ministry official said Tuesday.

The suspects are among 25 men detained after shootouts with Kuwaiti police on Jan. 10 and 15. Two police officers and two terrorist suspects were killed in the clashes.

Business

CEO accounting fraud: Prosecutors claim former HealthSouth CEO Richard Scrushy and other top executives schemed to inflate company profits by more than \$2.6 billion to make it appear the rehabilitation giant was meeting Wall Street forecasts.

Although Scrushy's defense in the corporate fraud trial says he is not contesting the existence of such a scheme, "he was unaware of it and was not a knowing participant."

War on terrorism

Guantanamo releases: Four Britons were released from the U.S. military camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and put on a flight that will arrive in Britain on Tuesday, police said.

Moazzam Beggs, Ferroz Abbasi, Martin Mubanga and Richard Belmar were among some 550 prisoners from 42 countries swept up in the U.S.-led war on terrorism and detained without charge for up to three years.

From The Associated Press

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JULIANA GITTILER/Stars and Stripes

The tower along the U.S.-built runway at Utaapao Royal Thai Navy Air Base welcomed bombers and other pilots returning from missions over Vietnam. The runway, barracks, chapel and several other buildings the U.S. military built at the time of the conflict remain today.

Thai base used in relief mission was Vietnam-era U.S. R&R stop

BY JULIANA GITTILER

Stars and Stripes

UTAPAO, Thailand — The route in from the gate to the Royal Thai Navy Air Base at Utaapao winds past shabby three-story concrete barracks that once housed U.S. troops preparing for missions over Vietnam.

The 11,500-foot runway, now used by planes carrying life-saving supplies to tsunami-battered nations, once held aircraft such as B-52 Stratofortresses, KC-135 tankers and even several C-130 Hercules now posted to Yokota Air Base, Japan. "The U.S. military's relationship with the base and its Thai hosts dates back four decades, to when it was a strategic forward-operating base and one-time home to thousands of U.S. troops during the Vietnam War."

The base, about 100 miles south of Bangkok, is proving its value again, this time as the headquarters for the massive U.S. military relief mission to South Asia.

Today, planes from the United States and Japan stop at Utaapao before making their way to disaster areas in the region.

Three of the eight C-130s working out of Utaapao now have traveled the runway before.

"[Some] of the ones we have over there now [were] here in the mid-1970s (during Vietnam)," said Dr. Robert B. Sligh, Air Forces Forward historian and the 374th Airlift Wing historian at Yokota.

"There's some great historic connections here," added Col. Mark Schissler, commander of Air Forces Forward and the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota.

"The reason I know that is because some of my friends from my very early days in the Air Force were here during Vietnam. So I was pretty surprised to find out that I was coming back to command the base that they operated out of during Vietnam."

When Schissler first learned to fly C-130s, his instructors at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., told him stories about their days in the region and at Utaapao.

"We enjoyed it," said retired Lt. Col. Ron Crump, Schissler's former navigator instructor, who teaches C-130 navigation at Little Rock today. "It was a different pace than Vietnam. Guys looked forward to it."

On their off time, some Vietnam fighters visited nearby Pattaya Beach, the same place popular with servicemen today. "The Utaapao trip was always one of the most sought-after trips," said retired Air Force Lt. Col. Mike Long, a pilot instructor at Little Rock and another of Schissler's former instructors. "Good quality of living. It was just a really friendly place."

C-130 pilots during the war would come to the base for two or three weeks before returning to bases in Japan and Taiwan.

Long said he flew to the base in two of the three Yokota-based C-130s now working in Utaapao.

"It's kind of amazing that some of the same aircraft are back over there," he said.

Back then, the aircraft were just a few years old. "They were literally getting shot up in Vietnam," Schissler said. "They were big magnets for fire. They took a lot of hits."

"Sometimes you wouldn't even know you'd been shot until you got back and saw the holes," Crump said.

The C-130s kept the ground fight going, carrying in rations, bullets and mail. Crump recalls carrying performers with Bob Hope's show around the region.

Utaapao and Pattaya were a welcome break for all servicemen who flew missions to or served in Vietnam. For many they were places to escape from the rigors of war.

"The Vietnam War saw the start of Pattaya's international reputation, for the fledgling resort was used as an official R&R center for U.S. forces," reads The Pattaya Guide, a guidebook for the modern town. "They were flown into Utaapao Airport which was built for American use at the time."

It's believed 7,000 U.S. servicemen once were stationed at Utaapao, Sligh said.

The U.S. military built the runway in the mid-1960s, and many of the buildings it constructed — including a chapel, barracks and clubs — still stand on the base.

The Department of Defense continues to make improvements. U.S. dollars paid for a new hangar and the small compound currently serving as the Operation Unified Assistance command post.

The compound is called "Camp Red Horse" in honor of the U.S. Air Force Red Horse group of engineers, Sligh said.

Since the end of the Vietnam War, the base has been among those used for the regional exercise Cobra Gold.

According to globalsecuity.org, the base has served as a stop for warplanes en route to Afghanistan and Iraq for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The base also has strategic value for its proximity to the rest of Southeast Asia.

But it's the hosts who make it an important hub, both today and in the past, Sligh said.

"We have a good working relationship with the Thais," he said.

E-mail: Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@stripes.osd.mil

adds 2nd rep for Japan bases

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Servicemen in Japan now have greater access to direct counseling with a Department of Veterans Affairs representative about benefits after retirement from active duty.

Edward A. Croft, a VA service representative visiting Sasebo this week, said there are six service representatives in the VA Overseas Military Coordinating program: two stationed in Germany, two in mainland Japan, one in Okinawa and one in England. Croft is assigned to Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station and plans to spend one week each month at his Sasebo office, located in the Fleet and Family Support Center, he said Tuesday.

"This marks the first time we've had two VA service reps in a classroom briefing Tuesday."

"This is a trial program brought on mostly by Marines in Iwakuni suggesting they simply needed more expertise regularly on site to answer questions about VA issues."

Before Croft arrived to serve Iwakuni and Sasebo, the lone service representative in Japan operated from Yokosuka Naval Base, he said, making treks to Sasebo, Iwakuni or Misawa Air Base on a quarterly schedule at best.

"This new program approach is funded by the Department of Defense, and it easily triples the attention given servicemen and retirees at Sasebo Naval Base. Probably more than 'triple,' Croft said.

Monday, the Croft ordered him to a classroom briefing Tuesday, he provided an overview of VA capabilities and how the department's functions apply to re-

turning and retired servicemen. At least 30 people attended the morning session.

"It was quite helpful, especially if you're trying to learn how to get things done in consideration of certain types of disabilities," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Beverly Pillow, a hospital corpsman retiring in about six months.

"In the overall picture, we looked a lot at issues that seemed to deal with compensation."

However, having him come here once a month, 100 miles away, is a good idea and will help a great deal," said Pillow, attached to Sasebo's Navy Branch Clinic.

"Being here more, of course, creates more chances for one-on-one sessions that people need."

Croft said he's in Iwakuni and Sasebo to provide both the broad-stroke classroom training and the one-to-one counseling.

"We are the experts in residence. The one stop for answers, and if we don't have the answers someone might need about a VA program or process, the onus is on us to find the answer," Croft said.

"People come in for personal appointments mainly just wanting to know, 'What's out there for me?'" he said.

"They tell me they were simply unaware of some of the benefits and procedures I am able to help them with," he added. "I make them aware. I explain. That's my job."

Call DSN 252-3120 or 252-3114 in Sasebo, or DSN 253-4149 in Iwakuni, to schedule an appointment with Croft. Croft also can take questions via e-mail at varepscri@yahoon.com.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@stripes.osd.mil

Rape charges revisited

The Tokyo District Court has recognized an Australian woman's claim that she was raped in 2002 by a then-U.S. sailor assigned to Yokosuka Naval Base, Japanese news media reported Monday. The court ordered him to pay about \$29,400 for the woman's pain and suffering.

The man left Japan in November 2002 and has left the service, his whereabouts are unknown, said the woman's lawyer, Mami Nakano.

Neither the woman's nor the man's names were disclosed. A Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan spokesman said Monday.

The court authorized the service, his whereabouts are unknown, said the woman's lawyer, Mami Nakano. Navy investigated the case and the results did not lead to any criminal charges."

But the woman, who is in her 40s, plans to seek an official review of Japanese prosecutors' decision not to try the man, Nakano said.

S.C. squadron at Iwakuni

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., arrived at Iwakuni Naval Air Station, Japan, this week for a six-month stay as part of the Marine Corps' Unit Deployment Program, according to a base news release Tuesday.

Marine Air-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 will return home to the Beaufort base, having successfully completed its six-month deployment in Iwakuni.

From staff reports

Pentagon spy group

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon says the political uproar over the disclosure of a secret military intelligence group is overblown and based on misinformation about the group's makeup and mission.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein and other Democrats appeared puzzled by the disclosure that the Pentagon had created a new battlefield intelligence group — “strategic support teams” — to perform clandestine missions that had been largely the province of the CIA. Pentagon officials said, however, that the arrangement had been worked out in close coordination with the CIA and that appropriate congressional committees had been fully informed.

A defense official said lawmakers may not recognize the news media's descriptions of the intelligence group because its name was changed after they were briefed on it last year.

Now called strategic support teams, they were previously known as humint (human intelligence) augmentation teams, the official said, speaking only on condition that he not be further identified.

Gitmo hanging attempts

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The U.S. military said 23 Guantanamo Bay terror suspects carried out a coordinated effort to hang or strangle themselves in 2003 during a protest in the secretive camp in Cuba.

The military, which had not previously reported the protest, said the coordinated attempts were among 350 "self-harm" incidents that year, including 120 so-called "hanging gestures," Lt. Col. Leon Sumpter, a spokesman for the detention mission, said Monday.

In the Aug. 18-26, 2003, protest, nearly two dozen prisoners tried to hang or strangle themselves with clothing and other items in their cells, demonstrating "self-injurious behavior," the U.S. Southern Command in Miami said in a statement. Ten detainees made a mass attempt on Aug. 22 alone.

From The Associated Press

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Troops returning from combat will undergo two mental health assessments — one right away, one three to five months later — to make sure they aren't suffering long-term trauma, Department of Defense officials announced this week.

Servicemembers are already required to talk to counselors immediately before and after their deployment. But Dr. William Winkewerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said often problems like post-traumatic stress disorder take weeks or months to manifest themselves.

"There is a minority percentage who have these issues, and we've also learned there is a concern or stigma about coming in for this," he said. "One of the ways we think we can get at that is to require this to everybody."

"It's really not meant to be a probing, intrusive kind of thing. It's meant to be a 'How are you doing? How is your family doing? If you're having problems, we want to help.'"

Winkenwerder said having counselors re-examine everyone months after their return will identify more problems, which in turn will allow them to help more troops. Officials also will redesign the current pre- and postcombat interviews to include a stronger mental health focus.

"Many times just talking helps people deal

with these issues," he said. "Some people might be having symptoms and thinking, 'Am I crazy?' and they need to be told, 'No, you're having a psychological reaction to this stressful event'."

The new program will begin sometime this spring. Winkenwerder said no cost estimates have been calculated for that redesign or the extra counseling.

Meanwhile, officials are wrestling with how to ensure everyone gets the new assessments, particularly Individual Ready Reservists, who don't belong to a specific unit once they're demobilized, said Col. Thomas Burke, one of the Pentagon's top psychiatrists and the director of mental health policy for the Defense Department. Also problematic, he said, are active-duty troops who move to new units or leave the Army after they return from the combat zone.

The services have already been augmenting active-duty mental health providers with contractors, but officials know more help will likely be needed — both in the military clinics as well

as at Veterans Affairs hospitals, said Burke. "Do we have enough doctors and facilities for what will be needed five years from now? I suspect not."

Burke said, however, it's too early to tell if the military medical system will be overloaded without a significant increase in providers. While officials are paying close attention to the trends, he added, "we don't know how long the war will last or how many troops will be involved."

For now, Burke said "we have enough psychiatrists, but they are all very busy."

Winkenwerder said for now, troops who have already returned from deployment will not be included in the extra interviews. Family members also will not be included in the assessments.

Winkenwerder said the department estimates between 8 percent and 15 percent of combat veterans suffer some lasting mental health trauma from their experience.

Stripes reporter Jon Anderson contributed to this report from the Pentagon.
E-mail Leo Shane at: shanej@stripes.osd.mil

“It’s really not meant to be a probing, intrusive kind of thing. It’s meant to be a ‘How are you doing? How is your family doing? If you’re having problems, we want to help.’”

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr.

Assistant secretary of defense

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Army: Iraq numbers to remain in '06

Service expects to keep 120,000 soldiers in country for 2 more years

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army expects to keep its troop strength in Iraq at the current level of about 120,000 for at least two more years, according to the Army's top operations officer.

While allowing for the possibility that the levels could decrease or increase depending on security conditions and other factors, Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace Jr. told reporters Monday that the assumption of little change through 2006 represents "the most probable case."

Recent disclosures that the Pentagon plans to beef up training of Iraqi security forces and press them into action more quickly has fueled speculation that the Bush administration could be preparing to reduce the number of U.S. troops significantly this year. As more Iraqi troops join the fight, the thinking goes, U.S. troops could begin to withdraw.

But Lovelace's remarks indicated that the Army is not yet counting on any such reduction. Indeed, the general said, the Army expects to continue rotating active-duty units in and out of Iraq in yearlong deployments and is looking for ways to dip even deeper into reserve forces — even as leaders of the re-

serves have warned that the Pentagon could be running out of such units.

"We're making the assumption that the level of effort is going to continue," Lovelace said.

Lovelace, who assumed his post of deputy chief of staff for operations in October, spoke to a group of Pentagon reporters in what had been billed as an informal "meet and greet" session. The conversation quickly focused on the Army's planning for Iraq.

The Army expects to continue rotating active-duty units in and out of Iraq in yearlong deployments.

The number of U.S. Army and other forces in Iraq rose to 150,000 last month, in what Pentagon officials described as an effort to bolster security ahead of Iraqi elections this weekend.

Lovelace made it clear that the Army's assumption about future U.S. force levels was not meant to pre-judge likely trends in either Iraq's security situation or development of its security services. He said the planning is intended to ensure that enough units would be ready if needed and to give U.S. troops a basis on which to organize their own lives.

"It's really about us providing the predictability to our own soldiers," he said. "It has nothing to do with the Iraqi army; it has everything to do with our own institutional ability."

Asked about the Army's assumption, Lawrence T. Di Rita, the Pentagon's main spokesman, said he was "not surprised" to hear that the Army has chosen such a number, noting the need for service leaders to do such planning. "But it's not going to be the Army's determination," he said. "Ultimately, the determination will be made by the commanders" in the field. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's belief, Di Rita added, "is that we will continue to see Iraqi security forces grow in capability. We will continue to see the need for the foreseeable period ahead to have a significant commitment of U.S. assistance as that capability develops. But there isn't anybody who has made any determination about timing or numbers."

Rumsfeld and other senior officials are reviewing recommendations from Army Gen. Gary Luck about measures to accelerate the training and boost the performance of the Iraqi security forces. Luck, who has returned to Washington after visiting Iraq last week, has endorsed plans by field commanders to increase the number of trainers substantially. But this increase is to come by shifting the missions of U.S. troops already assigned to Iraq rather than by deploying more forces, officials said.

"I don't think anyone has a notion that we're talking about forces in addition to what's already out there," Di Rita said. "It's a question of how to use those forces in a different way."

Iraq abuse claims

WASHINGTON — Pentagon documents released Monday disclosed that Iraqi prisoners had lodged dozens of abuse complaints against U.S. and Iraqi personnel who guarded them at a little-known palace in Baghdad converted to a U.S. prison. Among the allegations were that guards had sodomized a disabled man and killed his brother, whose dying body was tossed into a cell, atop his sister.

The documents, obtained in a lawsuit against the federal government by the American Civil Liberties Union, suggest for the first time that numerous detainees were abused at Adhamiya Palace, one of Saddam Hussein's villas in eastern Baghdad.

Torture allegations

LONDON — Iraqi security forces are arbitrarily arresting people and systematically torturing and abusing detainees, Human Rights Watch said in a report released Tuesday.

Iraq's interim government said it has begun an investigation into charges of abuse and torture.

With few exceptions, Iraqi authorities have not acted to stop such mistreatment, the human rights report said.

Human Rights Watch said it interviewed 90 detainees in Iraq, of whom 72 claimed to have been tortured or abused.

From wire reports

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North Korea accuses Seoul of deploying 'artillery piece'

The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea on Tuesday accused South Korea of illegally deploying "an artillery piece" inside the Demilitarized Zone separating the Koreas.

North Korea periodically makes such accusations, and South Korean officials dismiss the allegations as propaganda.

Under a cease-fire accord, only rifles and other small arms are allowed inside the DMZ, which was created after the 1950-53 Korean War as a buffer between the two states.

North Korea's Korean Central News Agency, citing an unnamed military source, said the South Korean army deployed an artillery piece and a large number of boxes containing shells near the demarcation line that lies at the center of the 2.5-mile-wide DMZ.

"This is an open challenge to the north that can never be pardoned in view of the present inter-Korean relations," KCNA said.

International efforts are under way to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear ambitions. The nuclear standoff flared in October 2002, when U.S. officials said North Korea admitted running a secret nuclear program.

Japan firm on deportation of Kurds

TOKYO — Japan on Tuesday defended its deportation of two Turkish Kurds who were recognized as refugees by the United Nations, saying Tokyo courts had denied their claims for such status. The Justice Ministry also stressed it had made clear it was willing to help the two resettle in a third country.

The government explained itself in a letter to the Tokyo office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees after the global body accused Japan of not meeting its obligations under international law.

Release of forensic tests no violation, Japan says

TOKYO — Japan on Tuesday denied a claim by North Korea that it reneged on a pact not to publicize the results of forensic tests on the alleged remains of a Japanese citizen kidnapped by the North's spies decades ago.

Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura admitted publicly for the first time that the two sides agreed to keep confidential Tokyo's forensic findings on what Pyongyang said were the cremated remains of Megumi Yokota — one of about a dozen Japanese North Korea has admitted kidnapping in the 1970s and '80s. However, Machimura said it was mutually understood that any results by Japanese experts could later be disclosed if there was no objection from Yokota's family.

From The Associated Press



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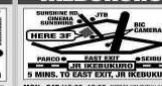
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Bush seeks \$80B more for Iraq, Afghanistan

BY ALAN FRAM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Congress started to digest a new Bush administration request of \$80 billion to bankroll wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, its top budget analyst on Tuesday projected \$855 billion in deficits for the next decade even without the costs of war and President Bush's Social Security plan.

Three senior administration officials said

the White House would request \$80 billion for the wars, or a bit more, soon after Bush submits his budget for fiscal 2006 to lawmakers on Feb. 7.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the program has not yet been announced, said \$75 billion of it would be for U.S. military costs, with the rest including funds to train and equip Iraqi and Afghan forces, aid the new Palestinian leadership,

build an embassy in Baghdad and help victims of warfare in Sudan's Darfur province.

Congress approved \$25 billion for the wars last summer.

Using figures compiled by the Congressional Research Service, which prepares reports for lawmakers, the newest request would push the totals provided for the conflicts and worldwide efforts against terrorism past \$300 billion. That includes \$25 bil-

lion already provided for rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan.

Amid the White House's preparations, the Congressional Budget Office predicted the government will accumulate another \$855 billion in deficits over the next decade.

The CBO also projected this year's shortfall will be \$368 billion. The two largest deficits ever in dollar terms were last year's \$412 billion and the \$377 billion gap of 2003.

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THE NEW SANNO

Senator says Rice lied 'repeatedly, flagrantly'

Confirmation expected despite harsh debate

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One Senate Democrat called Condoleezza Rice a liar Tuesday and others said she was an apologist for Bush administration failures in Iraq, but she remained on track for confirmation as secretary of state.

Rice, who has been President Bush's White House national security adviser for four years, was one of the loudest voices urging war, Democrats said. She repeatedly deceived members of Congress and Americans at large about justifications for the war, said Sen. Mark Dayton, D-Minn.

"I don't like impugning anyone's integrity, but I really don't like being lied to," Dayton said. "Repeatedly, flagrantly, intentionally."

Rice is expected to win confirmation on Wednesday. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., predicted that Rice would have an "overwhelming majority" of votes.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., cautioned against "inflammatory rhetoric that is designed merely

to create partisan advantage or to settle partisan scores."

Rice would succeed Colin Powell, who often found himself on the outside looking in with Bush's close circle of war and national security advisers.

By contrast, Rice is a trusted Bush loyalist. As a principal architect of the Iraq invasion and the administration's war on terrorism, she shares blame for overstating the threat posed by Saddam Hussein, Democrats said.

"My vote against this nominee is my statement that this administration's lies must stop now," Dayton said in opposing Rice's nomination on the Senate floor.

Politicians rarely use the word "lie," preferring some of the milder terms other Democrats used Tuesday.

"There was no reason to go to war in Iraq when we did, the way we did and for the false reasons we were given," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

Republicans who have tried to endorse Rice included Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., who has been a sometime critic of the Bush administration's Iraq policies.

"Dr. Rice has the intelligence, the integrity and the experience for this job. She has the president's confidence," Hagel said.

In his dealings with Rice, "she's always been candid and honest, and she listened," Hagel said.



Rice

Missile defense for planes too expensive, report says

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Technology to guard airplanes against terrorist missiles is too expensive for commercial airlines and developers should work to come up with something more suitable "as rapidly as possible," a new report says.

Fitting the nation's 6,800 commercial jets with countermeasures against shoulder-fired missiles would cost an estimated \$11 billion, with operating costs going up to \$2.1 billion annually, said the RAND Corp. report.

The report noted that the federal government now spends about \$4.4 billion annually on all transpiration security.

Analysts who did the report questioned whether it was even possible to defend against such weapons, and whether in any case terrorists would simply find other ways and other weapons to attack jets.

"Given the significant costs involved with operating countermeasures based on current technology, we believe a decision to install such systems aboard commercial airlines should be postponed until the technologies can be developed and shown to be more compatible in a commercial environment," the report said.

"This development effort should proceed as rapidly as possible."

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U.S. Muslims fear border hassles after hajj

BY FRANK JAMES

Chicago Tribune (KRT)

WASHINGTON — Software salesman Shadab Aziz of Houston was preparing recently to catch the first flight on his long journey to Saudi Arabia for the hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca expected at least once in a lifetime of all able Muslims. But his mind was partly on what could happen when he returned to the United States.

A U.S. citizen, Aziz wondered if American border officials would make him provide his fingerprints before allowing him to re-enter the country. That had been the case weeks earlier for a group of Muslim-Americans returning from an Islamic conference in Toronto.

"My concern is that I be treat-

ed like any other citizen of this country and that I'm not discriminated unfairly against because of my religion," Aziz, 27, said. "If an Anglo-Saxon male or female who's coming back into the country doesn't have to be fingerprinted, I see no reason why I have to be treated any differently."

U.S. citizens typically are not fingerprinted as they return from abroad. That usually is reserved for visiting foreigners as part of the US-VISIT program that went into full effect last year.

But when the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency, part of the Homeland Security Department, demanded fingerprints from about three dozen Muslim-Americans returning from Toronto, photographing some as

well, it set off alarm bells throughout Muslim America. Officials said the additional screening was intended to prevent terrorists from entering the country.

With an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 American Muslims having gone on the hajj this year, and with many returning this week, a lot of the pilgrims fear they will face the same treatment before being allowed to re-enter the United States.

Muslim-Americans say it would be another case of their rights being trampled on, more collateral damage in the war on terrorism.

Specifically, many contend that their constitutional rights to free exercise of religion and assembly, due process and security from unreasonable searches and seizures have been violated.



Pilgrims throw stones at pillars representing the devil in Mina, outside of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Muslim pilgrims converged on the stone pillars to cast pebbles in an act of purification during the annual hajj, or pilgrimage.

Same-sex couples in Massachusetts tackle tax filing question

BY KEN MAGUIRE

The Associated Press

BOSTON — As if tax season isn't stressful enough, gay newlyweds in Massachusetts this year are pondering a new thorny question: Do they check "married" or "single" on federal tax forms? A landmark court ruling made Massachusetts the first state to sanc-

tion same-sex weddings nearly a year ago, but gays and lesbians will have to untie the knot this April — on paper at least — since the federal government doesn't recognize their unions.

But some aren't ready to declare themselves "single" to the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS. "I fully intend to file a married joint return, regardless of the fact

the we're not supposed to," said Arthur Henneberger, 46, of Springfield. "If they kick it back, fine, we'll go to court."

While Henneberger might expect to get the full backing of gay rights groups, the Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders is one that isn't looking to pick a fight with the IRS.

"It's not something that should

be done quickly or precipitously," GLAD spokeswoman Carisa Cunningham said. "We wouldn't advise anyone to try to do it alone."

Instead, the group is advising the state's estimated 4,900 same-sex couples who married in the past year to file federal returns as if they are single but to note — either through an attached letter or on the return itself — that they

were married in Massachusetts. Same-sex couples who are residents can file joint state returns.

The IRS won't say how aggressively it will examine tax returns to spot those filed by same-sex couples. But agency spokesman William Cressman said if these couples are caught filing as married, "the status would be changed and they would be notified of that."



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'Aviator' nabs 11 Oscar nominations

'Million Dollar Baby' and 'Finding Neverland' each receive 7 Academy Award nods

BY DAVID GERMAIN

The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — The Howard Hughes epic "The Aviator" led Academy Awards contenders with 11 nominations Tuesday, including best picture, plus acting honors for Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett and Alan Alda and a directing slot for Martin Scorsese.

The boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby" and the J.M. Barrie tale "Finding Neverland" followed with seven nominations each, among them best picture and acting nominations for Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman, Hilary Swank and Johnny Depp.

Eastwood also got a directing nomination for "Million Dollar Baby."

The other best-picture nominees were the Ray Charles portrait "Ray" and the buddy comedy "Sideways."

Along with Eastwood, Jamie Foxx also scored two nominations, as best actor for the title role in "Ray" and supporting actor as a taxi driver whose cab is hijacked by a hit man in "Collateral."

Foxx's dead-on emulation of Charles has made him the

Who will take home the Oscar?

The Aviator® leads all nominations for the 77th Annual Academy Awards.

Actor Don Cheadle, "Hotel Rwanda"; Johnny Depp, "Finding Neverland"; Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Aviator"; Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"; Jamie Foxx, "Ray"

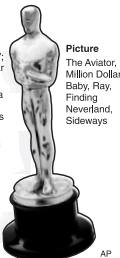
Actress **Annette Bening**, "Being Julia"; **Catalina Sandino Moreno**, "Maria Full of Grace"; **Imelda Staunton**, "Vera Drake"; **Hilary Swank**, "Million Dollar Baby"; **Kate Winslet**, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless

Supporting Actor **Jamie Foxx**, "Collateral"; **Morgan Freeman**, "Million Dollar Baby"; **Alan Alda**, "The Aviator"; **Thomas Haden Church**, "Sideways";

Supporting Actress **Clive Owens**, "Closer"; **Cate Blanchett**, "The Aviator"; **Laura Linney**, "Kinsey"; **Virginia Madsen**, "Sideways"; **Sophia Okonedo**, "Hotel Rwanda"; **Natalie**

Director Martin Scorsese, "The Aviator"; Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"; Taylor Hackford, "Ray"; Mike Leigh, "Vera Drake";

SOURCE: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences



Picture
The Aviator,
Million Dollar
Baby, Ray,
Finding
Neverland,
Sideways

front-runner in the lead-actor category.

Starting as aviation trailblazer and Hollywood rebel Hughes, DiCaprio also was nominated for best actor.

He and Foxx will compete against Depp as "Peter Pan" playwright Barrie in "Finding Neverland"; Eastwood as a cantankerous boxing trainer in "Million Dollar Baby"; and Don Cheadle for "Hotel Rwanda," starring as

hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina, who sheltered refugees from the Rwandan genocide.

The best-actress category presents a rematch of the 1999 showdown, when underdog Swank won the Oscar for "Boys Don't Cry" over Annette Bening, who had been the front-runner for "American Beauty."

This time, Swank was nominated as a bullheaded boxing champ whose life takes a cruel twist in

"Million Dollar Baby." Bening was chosen for "Being Julia," in which she plays an aging 1930s stage diva exacting wickedly comic revenge on the men in her life and a young rival.

Both actresses won Golden Globes for the roles, Swank for best dramatic actress, Bening for actress in a musical or comedy.

Also nominated for the best-actress Oscar were Catalina Sandino Moreno as a Colombian

woman imperiled when she signs on to smuggle heroin in "Maria Full of Grace"; Imelda Staunton as a saintly housekeeper in 1950s Britain who performs illegal abortions on the side in "Vera Drake"; and Kate Winslet as a woman who has had memories of her ex-boyfriend erased in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

Joining Eastwood and Scorsese among directing nominees are Taylor Hackford for "Ray"; Mike Leigh for "Vera Drake"; and Alexander Payne for "Sideways."

Scorsese, arguably the most prominent modern filmmaker who has never won an Oscar, also has never delivered a best-picture winner.

Considered a nominal best-picture favorite, "The Aviator" offers him a shot to finally triumph on Oscar night, though Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby" is a formidable competitor.

"The Aviator" won the Golden Globe for best-dramatic film, but Eastwood beat out Scorsese for the directing prize at the Globes.

ABC will broadcast the Oscars live Feb. 27 from Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. Chris Rock is the show's host, the first time since 1996 that either Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg or Steve Martin has not been master of ceremonies.

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Cape Cod hit hard by weekend snowstorm

By MATT PITTA

The Associated Press

DENNIS, Mass. — Charlie Chamberlain has seen a lot of Cape Cod winters in his nearly 80 years. But the Dennis resident says last weekend's tops everything.

"I've never seen it as bad as this," Chamberlain, 76, said as he watched cleanup operations at the Patriot Square shopping plaza in South Dennis on Monday afternoon.

Up to three feet of snow combined with hurricane-force winds piled up snow drifts several feet high across Cape Cod. The sheer volume of the snow rendered traditional snow plows useless.

Instead, large front-end loaders were called in to clear highways, secondary roads and parking lots.

As crews worked to clear Great Western Road in Dennis, they encountered stranded cars, abandoned by their helpless drivers during the height of the storm on Sunday.

All over Massachusetts on Monday, massive piles of snow, 10 to 15 feet high, loomed over street corners, driveways and parking lots.

With temperatures expected to stay below freezing for the next few days, the snow is not going anywhere.

"It looks like temperatures are going to

stay basically in the 20s for the rest of the week," said Tracy McCormick, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Taunton.

And just to add insult to injury, more snow is expected on Wednesday morning, albeit "not nearly as much as the Blizzard of '05," she said.

Logan International Airport battled a power outage on Monday that slowed things down again just hours after it had resumed operations following the storm.

Many residents were still stuck at home Monday because towns abandoned plowing efforts that were futile against winds that piled the snow into drifts up to six feet high. Bruce MacNayr, 46, was trapped in

his home in South Dennis for 24 hours before the plows reached him on Monday afternoon.

A second day of canceled classes for many Massachusetts schools on Tuesday means more winter fun for young children. "They love it, no school, that's good for them," said Elizabeth Kennealy, 43, of Dennis, as she left one of the few open supermarkets on Cape Cod with a gallon of milk and loaf of bread.

Some residents of the South shore were blocked from getting into their houses by ocean flooding that later froze. Seaside homes in Hull and Scituate resembled igloos after they were encased in ice by winds whipping up spray from the crashing waves.

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SAN DIEGO L.A. WASHINGTON D.C. DALLAS LAS VEGAS HONOLULU WEST L.A. COLUMBUS

Ex-priest on trial in Mass.

The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Former priest Paul Shanley told a 6-year-old boy, "If you tell, no one will believe you," before molesting him at a Newton parish in the early 1980s, a prosecutor said Tuesday. But the defense said the story was concocted in order to bring a lawsuit.

The boy didn't tell anyone for nearly 20 years, recovering his memories of the alleged abuse only after hearing of media reports about the sex scandal in the Boston Archdiocese, Assistant District Attorney Lynn Rooney said during opening statements in Shanley's child rape trial in Middlesex Superior Court.

"Those memories were buried deep inside," Rooney said.

Shanley's lawyer Frank Mondano said the accuser made up the allegations against Shanley to

Opening statements were scheduled to begin Tuesday in the child rape case against defrocked Catholic priest Paul Shanley, who appeared in court last Thursday.

get in on the multimillion-dollar settlements for victims in the scandal.

Rooney acknowledged that the man got \$500,000 in a civil settlement with the archdiocese last year, but she said his willingness to testify publicly about being repeatedly raped by Shanley shows he is motivated by more than money.

Shanley, who turned 74 on Tuesday, faces three charges of raping a child and two charges of indecent assault and battery on a child.

The maximum sentence is life in prison.

17 priests disciplined in N.Y.

The Associated Press

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. — The Roman Catholic Church has disciplined 17 priests of a New York diocese for sexual abuse allegations.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre on Long Island informed parishioners of the actions in a three-page letter listing the status of sex cases against 33 priests.

Bishop William F. Murphy reported that eight priest were defrocked by the Vatican, nine were permanently suspended, three await canonical trials and two have been cleared. Proceedings against another have been deferred.

Several victims' rights groups criticized the bishop, saying the priorities of the disciplined priests should be made public.

Shows many blacks suspect AIDS conspiracy

By DARRYL FEARS

The Washington Post

More than 20 years after the AIDS epidemic arrived in the United States, a significant proportion of blacks embrace the theory that government scientists created the disease to control or wipe out their communities, according to a study released Tuesday by Rand Corp. and Oregon State University.

That belief markedly hurts efforts to prevent the spread of the disease among black Americans, the study's authors and activists said.

Blacks represent 13 percent of the U.S. population, according to Census Bureau figures, yet they account for 50 percent of new HIV infections in the nation, ac-

cording to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nearly half of the 500 African-Americans surveyed said that HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is man-made. The study, which was supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, appears in the Feb. 1 edition of the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes.

More than one-quarter said they believed that AIDS was produced in a government laboratory, and 12 percent believed it was created and spread by the CIA.

A slight majority said they believe that a cure for AIDS is being withheld from the poor. Forty-four percent said people who take the new medicines for HIV are govern-

ment guinea pigs, and 15 percent said AIDS is a form of genocide against black people.

At the same time, 75 percent said they believe medical and public health agencies are working to stop the spread of AIDS in black communities. But the responses, which varied only slightly by age, gender and education or income level, alarmed the researchers.

"As a researcher knowing that these beliefs were out there, I wasn't as surprised as people I share the study with," said Laura Bogart, a behavioral scientist for the Rand Corp., who co-authored the study with Cheryl Thorburn, associate professor in the College of Health and Human Sciences at Oregon State.

"But the findings are striking, and a wake-up call to the prevention community," Bogart said.

15 illegal immigrants arrested

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Fifteen illegal immigrants from South Korea and the man accused of trying to smuggle them across the United States were arrested on a New York-bound Amtrak train, federal officials said Tuesday.

The men and the alleged smuggler, 27-year-old Pyung Seop Lee, were arrested Thursday at the train station in Albuquerque, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials. Lee also is believed to be in the country illegally.

The immigrants were discovered after confrontation with the Drug Enforcement Administration noticed their reservations on the train's manifest, according to the criminal complaint against Lee, who is charged with transporting or attempting to transport the group without the country.

Fire disrupts N.Y. subway lines

NEW YORK — One of the city's busiest subway lines has been suspended and another severely limited, possibly for years, after a fire destroyed an equipment room at a station in lower Manhattan.

The C line — which runs through Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens — was suspended Sunday following the fire at the Chambers Street station and will be out of service indefinitely, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said Sunday.

The MTA said it also was severely limiting the A line, which runs parallel to the C line.

The MTA said service may be gradually restored, but it could take a few years to completely repair the damaged equipment and return the lines to full service.

From The Associated Press

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

| INDEXES | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| | 52-week High | Low | Name | Last | Net Chg |
| 10,868.17 | 9,765.40 | Dow Jones Industrials | 10,368.51 | -24.35 | -21 |
| 3,823.96 | 2,743.46 | Dow Jones Transportation | 3,644.78 | -16.39 | -47 |
| 327.29 | 259.88 | Dow Jones Utilities | 314.27 | +2.57 | +80 |
| 7,273.18 | 6,211.33 | NASDAQ Composite | 6,984.03 | -25.53 | -387 |
| 1,432.66 | 1,158.82 | AMEX Index | 1,414.18 | +4.58 | +17 |
| 2,191.69 | 1,752.82 | NYSE Composite | 2,089.70 | -2.95 | -126 |
| 12,117.90 | 10,664.72 | S&P 500 | 11,835.75 | -4.12 | -57 |
| 666.29 | 545.29 | S&P MidCap | 629.93 | -2.69 | -48 |
| 511.51 | 515.59 | Russell 2000 | 694.53 | -5.55 | -107 |
| 12,024.36 | 10,764.52 | DJ Wilshire 2000 | 11,445.27 | -10.82 | -58 |

| NYSE | | | AMEX | | | NASDAQ | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------------------------|---------|-------|
| Most Active (\$1 or more) | | | Most Active (\$1 or more) | | | Most Active (\$1 or more) | | |
| Apple | 112,124 | 112.1 | IBM | 56,811 | 126.06 | Microsoft | 126,060 | 35.31 |
| Pfizer | 29,430 | 24.26 | Sanofi | 31,144 | 29.69 | Sirius | 81,907 | 6.08 |
| Northern | 21,124 | 11.38 | Delta | 20,000 | 11.38 | United | 81,907 | 6.08 |
| Northrup | 21,124 | 11.38 | Delta | 20,000 | 11.38 | United | 81,907 | 6.08 |
| Northrup | 21,124 | 11.38 | Delta | 20,000 | 11.38 | United | 81,907 | 6.08 |
| Northrup | 21,124 | 11.38 | Delta | 20,000 | 11.38 | United | 81,907 | 6.08 |
| Northrup | 21,124 | 11.38 | Delta | 20,000 | 11.38 | United | 81,907 | 6.08 |
| Northrup | 21,124 | 11.38 | Delta | 20,000 | 11.38 | United | 81,907 | 6.08 |
| Northrup | 21,124 | 11.38 | Delta | 20,000 | 11.38 | United | 81,907 | 6.08 |

| KEY DEFENSE STOCKS | | | | | KEY MUTUAL FUNDS | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------|---------|------|------------------------|--------------|-------|---------|-----|
| Name | 52-week High | Low | Net Chg | YTD | Name | 52-week High | Low | Net Chg | YTD |
| Alcatel Technology | 10.18 | 64.23 | -1.18 | -1.8 | Fidelity Asset Manager | 36.88 | 36.88 | -0.33 | -3 |
| Boeing | 10.18 | 64.23 | -1.18 | -1.8 | Fidelity Asset Manager | 36.88 | 36.88 | -0.33 | -3 |
| Boeing | 10.18 | 64.23 | -1.18 | -1.8 | Fidelity Asset Manager | 36.88 | 36.88 | -0.33 | -3 |
| Boeing | 10.18 | 64.23 | -1.18 | -1.8 | Fidelity Asset Manager | 36.88 | 36.88 | -0.33 | -3 |
| Boeing | 10.18 | 64.23 | -1.18 | -1.8 | Fidelity Asset Manager | 36.88 | 36.88 | -0.33 | -3 |
| Boeing | 10.18 | 64.23 | -1.18 | -1.8 | Fidelity Asset Manager | 36.88 | 36.88 | -0.33 | -3 |
| Boeing | 10.18 | 64.23 | -1.18 | -1.8 | Fidelity Asset Manager | 36.88 | 36.88 | -0.33 | -3 |
| Boeing | 10.18 | 64.23 | -1.18 | -1.8 | Fidelity Asset Manager | 36.88 | 36.88 | -0.33 | -3 |
| Boeing | 10.18 | 64.23 | -1.18 | -1.8 | Fidelity Asset Manager | 36.88 | 36.88 | -0.33 | -3 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | | Commercial rates | |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Japanese Yen (Jan. 25) | 100.00 | British pound (Jan. 25) | \$1.8793 |
| South Korean won (Jan. 25) | 1,008.00 | Swiss franc (Jan. 25) | 1.4581 |
| U.S. dollar (Jan. 25) | \$1.3403 | Denmark (Krone) | 6.5936 |
| British pound (Jan. 25) | \$0.7461 | Euro (Euro) | 6.7919 |
| British pound (Jan. 25) | \$1.33 | Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.8774 |
| Swiss franc (Jan. 25) | 1.4581 | Indonesian (Rupiah) | 1,404.6 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.5936 | Iceland (Krona) | 62.415 |
| Euro (Euro) | 6.7919 | Ireland (Punt) | 7.2725 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.8774 | Japan (Yen) | 102.72 |
| Indonesian (Rupiah) | 1,404.6 | Norway (Krone) | 6.2709 |
| Iceland (Krona) | 62.415 | Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.75 |
| Ireland (Punt) | 7.2725 | Singapore (Dollar) | 1.357 |
| Japan (Yen) | 102.72 | South Korea (Won) | 1,008.00 |
| Norway (Krone) | 6.2709 | Thailand (Baht) | 38.55 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.75 | U.S. dollar (Jan. 25) | \$1.3403 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.357 | U.S. dollar (Jan. 25) | \$1.3403 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,008.00 | U.S. dollar (Jan. 25) | \$1.3403 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 38.55 | U.S. dollar (Jan. 25) | \$1.3403 |
| U.S. dollar (Jan. 25) | \$1.3403 | U.S. dollar (Jan. 25) | \$1.3403 |

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Worthy funds in hiding

By GREGG WOLPER

Morningstar.com

Beginning investors — and even more sophisticated ones — can simplify their efforts by passing over certain fund categories entirely. After all, with more than 17,000 funds out there to choose from, you can do yourself a favor by focusing most of your efforts on core funds.

Even in less-worthwhile categories, though, some gems await. Here are a few noteworthy funds hiding in categories that, as a whole, we're not overly enthusiastic about.

■ **World Stocks:** Too many world-stock funds simply take a U.S.-stock portfolio from the domestic funds manager and a foreign-stock portfolio from the international manager and then glue them together. Such funds typically have high costs, as well. But the recently reopened Vanguard Global Equity (VHGX) boasts a strong long-term record and, of course, low costs. In fact, beginning investors who can scrape together

the \$3,000 minimum might find the fund appealing. Another sole fund until they have the means to fund a broader portfolio.

■ **Multisector bonds:** Most people could probably use a diversified bond portfolio in one package. In reality, though, the bulk of these offerings are underwhelming performers that charge too much. But if you write off the entire category, you'd be missing out on Loomis Sayles Bond (LSBX). Another worthwhile option in this category is T. Rowe Price Spectrum Income (RPSIX), a fund of funds that, to its credit, does not charge an overreaching fee on top of the expense of its underlying funds.

■ **Communications:** The communications area is, to say the least, highly volatile. Yet one fund that's worth a look is T. Rowe Price Media & Telecom (PRMTX). Be careful, though: It still can be volatile. Moreover, the fund is coming off great gains in both 2003 and 2004, so don't expect it to keep up such a rip-roaring pace.

PRECIOUS METALS

| New York Merc | | Gold | |
|---------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Spot | \$236.90 | Gold | \$64.95 |
| 1-month bill | 133.3 | 1-month bill | 133.3 |
| 3-month bill | 133.3 | 3-month bill | 133.3 |
| 6-month bill | 133.3 | 6-month bill | 133.3 |
| 1-year bill | 133.3 | 1-year bill | 133.3 |

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

THURSDAY EVENING / JANUARY 27, 2005

| J | 6PM | 6:30 | 7PM | 7:30 | 8PM | 8:30 | 9PM | 9:30 | 10PM | 10:30 | 11PM | 11:30 |
|----|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| 6 | AFN-P #ESPNews Pacific Report | Two and a Half Men Alan agrees to a makeover. (CC) | Will & Grace Tina's Will and Grace lose competition. (CC) | Desperate Housewives The women know the dinner party that Mary Alice had planned to meet. (CC) | CSI: Crime Scene Investigation Dead Ringer: A murder probe involving victims and suspects who are cops. (CC) | Pacific Report | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC) | Let's Show With David Letterman (CC) | | | | |
| 7 | AFN-AT #5-46 Ograh Winfrey (CC) | #35 Guiding Light (CC) | #17 General Hospital (CC) | Headline News Judge Judy (CC) | Today (CC) | | | | | Legend of Tarzan "Giant Beasts" (CC) | Aashi Real Monsters (CC) | |
| 8 | NEWS Harbail with Chris Matthews | The O'Reilly Factor (CC) | 60 Minutes (CC) | Fox and Friends | Fox and Friends | | | | | American Morning | | |
| 9 | SPORTS #500 NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped) | #NBA Fastbreak (CC) | #SportsCenter | #College Basketball Marquette at Louisville. (Taped) | | | | | | American Basketball Maryland at Duke. (Taped) | | |
| 10 | SPECT The Simpsons Lisa's elected U.S. president. | Everybody Loves Raymond Marie and Debra feud. | American Idol (CC) | The Practice "Cher Boy" A man accused of murdering three women threatens Helen. (CC) | Frontline (CC) | Friends Chandler bonds with Monica's father. (CC) | Seinfeld Jerry decides to change barbers. (CC) | The Daily Show With Stewart (CC) | Blind Date (CC) | Blind Date (CC) | | |
| 11 | AFN-FM #500 Parents (1989) Randy Quaid | Rugrats (CC) | That's So Raven All That (CC) | 7th Heaven Life and Death (CC) | Sabrina-Witch Sabrina-Witch | The Cosby Show Home Improv. | | | | Touché by an Angel (CC) | | |
| 12 | AFN-AM #500 Parents (1989) Randy Quaid | Emmy, Childhood Tears: Three women come back to haunt a graduate student. PG-13 (CC) | The New This Old House Home Bar: new fire for fireplace, sustainable pump. (N) (CC) | The New This Old House Home Bar: new fire for fireplace, sustainable pump. (N) (CC) | Antiques Roadshow St. Paul, St. Paul, St. Paul: Babe Ruth, autographed baseball. (CC) | One Man's Journey Into the Great Solitude: "Canoe trip through the Canadian Arctic." (N) (CC) | | | | | | |
| 13 | SHOW #181 Arwen (2002) | Drama (Viggo Mortensen, Rick Rossovich, Daniel von Bargen, Two people escape to steal a motor. R) (CC) | American Idol Hiding in Plain Sight: Talia of a Justice (CC) | Cold Case Files The "Amen" in a Box, Malander Instinct, The Texas Drifter: Fin-epert: A cigarette helps to solve a murder. (CC) | Supernatural The "Amen" in a Box, Malander Instinct, The Texas Drifter: Fin-epert: A cigarette helps to solve a murder. (CC) | | | | | | | |
| 14 | DISC To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced | To Be Announced |
| 15 | TFC Game Ka Na Ba? | Star Circle Quest | Mala-ala Mo Kays (In Tagalog) | #5 Insider | Kumusta Kabayan | | | | Morning Star | (L40) Mth, Ang Says Says | | |
| 16 | CNN+ Low Dobbs Tonight | CNN Daybreak | | | | American Morning (CC) | | | | | | |
| 17 | GOLF #European PGA 2000 Masters | #Golf Central | #Singapore Masters Highlights | #Malaysian Open Highlights | #Inside the PGA Tour | #What's in the Bag? | #Golf Central | #European PGA Golf Colles Masters - In a Fix: Nightmares and Beams: A wife thinks her husband should be fixing more things himself. (CC) | | | | |
| 18 | TLC Exorcists: The True Story (CC) | Pact With the Devil (CC) | Overhaul "School's Out" Tackling a 1966 Chevrolet Bel Air at Wyoming | Exorcists: The True Story | Looney Tunes | I am Weasel | What a Cartoon Show | Scoby-Do: Where Are You? | | | | |
| 19 | TOON Samurai Jack | Dexter's Laboratory Next Door | Codename: Kids Next Door | Justice League | Powerpuff Girls | Cartoon Cartoon | Looney Tunes | I am Weasel | What a Cartoon Show | Scoby-Do: Where Are You? | | |
| 20 | ANPL Pet Star Drag-racing dog, chatty bird, crawling ball. | Animal Cops Detroit "House of Cats" A house is overrun by cats. (CC) | The Planet's Funniest Animals (CC) | Pet Star Drag-racing dog, chatty bird, crawling ball. | Animal Cops Detroit "House of Cats" A house is overrun by cats. (CC) | The Most Extreme "Venom" Lethal injections. | | | | | | |
| 21 | COM Crank Yankers Niles makes a new NBA franchise. | South Park Stan makes his future. | Drawn Together Xander must make a decision. (CC) | Shorties Watchin' Shorties Dana Cook. (CC) | The Daily Show With Jon Stewart | The Daily Show With Jon Stewart | Shorties Watchin' Shorties Dana Cook. (CC) | The Daily Show With Jon Stewart | Shorties Watchin' Shorties Dana Cook. (CC) | Mac TV "2000 Episode Milestone Special Edition" A celebration of the series' 20th anniversary. (CC) | | |
| 22 | NOCA- Niles makes a new NBA franchise. | Tales of the Living Dead "A Head for Science" | Sex and the City "A Head for Science" | Sex and the City "A Head for Science" | Sex and the City "A Head for Science" | Sex and the City "A Head for Science" | Sex and the City "A Head for Science" | Sex and the City "A Head for Science" | Sex and the City "A Head for Science" | Sex and the City "A Head for Science" | Sex and the City "A Head for Science" | Sex and the City "A Head for Science" |
| 23 | FOX MXC (N) | MXC "Dolls and Addicts" | Hey! Spring of Trivia (N) | MXC "Cows and Cars" | MXC "Couples and Cars" | MXC "Couples and Cars" | MXC "Couples and Cars" | MXC "Couples and Cars" | MXC "Couples and Cars" | MXC "Couples and Cars" | MXC "Couples and Cars" | MXC "Couples and Cars" |
| 24 | SPKE That's 70s Show Eric and Donna are found out. | That's 70s Show Eric and Donna are found out. | The Simpsons The guys go back to school. (CC) | The Simpsons The guys go back to school. (CC) | The Simpsons The guys go back to school. (CC) | The Simpsons The guys go back to school. (CC) | The Simpsons The guys go back to school. (CC) | The Simpsons The guys go back to school. (CC) | The Simpsons The guys go back to school. (CC) | The Simpsons The guys go back to school. (CC) | The Simpsons The guys go back to school. (CC) | The Simpsons The guys go back to school. (CC) |
| 25 | BET Soul Food The "Alchemist" Accident | Soul Food The "Alchemist" Accident | Club Comic View Romaine. Just June. | Club Comic View Romaine. Just June. | Club Comic View Romaine. Just June. | Club Comic View Romaine. Just June. | Club Comic View Romaine. Just June. | Club Comic View Romaine. Just June. | Club Comic View Romaine. Just June. | Club Comic View Romaine. Just June. | Club Comic View Romaine. Just June. | Club Comic View Romaine. Just June. |
| 26 | COURT NYPD Blue "Peeping Tom" | NYPD Blue "Peeping Tom" | Sopranos A sex scandal on the line. (CC) | Sopranos A sex scandal on the line. (CC) | Sopranos A sex scandal on the line. (CC) | Sopranos A sex scandal on the line. (CC) | Sopranos A sex scandal on the line. (CC) | Sopranos A sex scandal on the line. (CC) | Sopranos A sex scandal on the line. (CC) | Sopranos A sex scandal on the line. (CC) | Sopranos A sex scandal on the line. (CC) | Sopranos A sex scandal on the line. (CC) |
| 27 | STR-UL The Simpsons (CC) | The Drew Carey Show (CC) | St. News Focus Asia | Friends (CC) | American Idol (CC) | The Chronicle: News From the Edge | My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance | Friends (CC) | American Idol (CC) | | | |
| 28 | LIFE "Down Anna" (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) |
| 29 | ABCAN #500 Parents (1989, Comedy) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) |
| 30 | HIST #500 Parents (1989, Comedy) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) |
| 31 | STR-IV #500 Parents (1989, Comedy) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) |
| 32 | ADV 1 #500 Parents (1989, Comedy) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) | Down Anna (2005, Doucanda) |
| 33 | MTV MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. | MTV Cries Hanson. |
| 34 | NICK Hey Arnold! Police Station (CC) | Rugrats First hat-out. (CC) | The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius | The Family Dog Parents Timmy enters a film fest. | SpongeBob SquarPants (CC) | Zey 101 Zey at a private boarding school. (CC) | Full House Julie's a prize fighter. (CC) | Full House Julie's a prize fighter. (CC) | The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Julie's a prize fighter. (CC) | The Cosby Show Sondra and Elvin get advice. (CC) | Roseanne Darlene and Jackie sue a counselor. (CC) | Roseanne Darlene and Jackie sue a counselor. (CC) |

JAPAN TV

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96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Camp Red Cloud/Camp Casey: Staff Robinson, Address: Stars
and Stripes, c/o HHC 2D HPM, Unit 15041, APO 96328-0209,
Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Dean Air Base/Camp Humphreys: Franklin Fisher, Unit 15334,
APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Seoul: Ted Weaver and Hwang Hee-Jung, Unit 15334, APO
96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Korea Bureau Chief: Joseph Gordon, Unit 15334, APO
96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Vietnam Bureau Chief: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington, DC 20045-1301. Phone 529 312-783-0900 or fax (41-13) 3408-8936
Lima Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
San Francisco Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Washington DC Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
London Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Paris Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Tokyo Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Osaka Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Kobe Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Nagasaki Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Fukuoka Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Sapporo Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Hiroshima Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Yokohama Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Nagoya Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Kyoto Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Miyazaki Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936
Okinawa Bureau Chief: Sid Aiken, APO 96337-5002, Japan
Tel: (81-3) 3408-8936; fax (81-3) 3408-8936

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Women wouldn't slack off

I wish I was surprised by "Women don't belong in infantry" (letter, Dec. 19), but frankly I'm not.

The writer said he would leave his personal opinions aside, then expressed them in a very narrow-minded manner. I agree that women who want to join the infantry should meet the same physical training requirements. However, the reason weight and body fat regulations are different is because women are naturally supposed to carry more body fat than men. Real facts to ask your medic if you're skeptical.

As for the claims that women would slack off, any woman tough enough to pass the male PT standards and infantry training is probably at least as motivated as the men. While in Iraq, I have seen women carry heavier loads to prove themselves more than I've seen them loafing, and several of the females in my

unit carry the heavier M249 light machine gun, while the only M4 assault rifle is carried by the tallest man in our unit.

Decency requires that opposite genders have separate places to dress and shower when available. This is not preferential treatment but common sense. Remember in Kuwait where the whole unit shared one tent? The men kept to one side, the women to the other, and people changed their underclothes in the showers.

To prevent accidental pregnancies, infantry females could be required to be on birth control in the field. At other times, do remember that men can have children while in the military and women should be able to as well.

The bottom line is, soldiers who can pass the same training should have the same opportunities, regardless of gender. Period.

Sp. Khai Krumbhagd
Bangladesh

Controlling our right to be offended

BY PAUL K. MCMASTERS

Did you hear the one about the amateur comedians and the lawyer? It goes like this: These two guys are standing around and start cracking lawyer jokes.

A lawyer nearby doesn't think the jokes are funny, so he gets them arrested and slapped in handcuffs. The punch line: The next week he comes back to appear in court next month to answer charges of disorderly conduct.

Not that funny? That's because it actually happened last week at the federal courthouse in Hempstead, N.Y. The joke, it turns out, is on freedom of speech.

We Americans may have lost our sense of humor, but we certainly have a firm grip on our highly developed sense of offense. The variety and pervasiveness of things that give offense make us cling more tenaciously to an assumed right to be easily and perpetually offended.

So we're putting an ever-shorter leash on expression.

Just look at television. Well, maybe not. Not a day goes by that our couch potatoes across the nation don't feel compelled to rise up in rage over yet another offense to their sensibilities oozing from radio or TV screens. Here are some examples of how being offended translates into action just from the first couple of weeks of 2005.

The National Organization for Women and other women's advocates, incensed when a few radio stations promoted a letter-writing contest in which the winners receive free breast-enlargement surgery, have flooded the Federal Communications Commission with 3,400 complaints at last count.

A Cleveland man, watching an episode of "Fear Factor" during which partici-

pants were required to eat dead rats, vomited, became dizzy with disgust, bumped his head as he fled the scene of the TV assault and then filed a \$2.5 million suit against NBC.

For their part, broadcasters are reeling from record FCC fines for violating decency standards, whatever they might be, and worried about where the next complaint or lawsuit will come from. So they are courageously fighting back with a policy of "no on-air bus-bumping" when involving a cartoon character and other an aging actor's backside.

Fox network, for example, has developed a real problem with posteriors. In quick succession, network executives have put the kibosh on two separate infomercials (on-air bus-bumping) involving a cartoon character and other an aging actor's backside.

In the first instance, Fox blurred the butt of a character in the "Family Guy" cartoon, which first aired un-pixelated five years ago.

In the second instance, executives declined to accept a cold-remedy commercial that flashed the behind of actor Mickey Rooney, much to the chagrin of the medical firm's co-owner, who thought the ad should have been aired.

There's "nothing sexual about the ad," said Rieder McDowell, co-owner of Airborne. "It's tantamount to showing a baby's bottom."

Make that an 84-year-old baby's bottom. Meanwhile, cable network HBO has donated three films to PBS to reach a wider audience with its programming. But the public broadcasting executives will have to excuse from one film a brief glimpse of an unclothed woman and one utterance of the F-word and a similar expletive from another film in order to protect PBS stations from ever-watching FCC.

And the bosses at Citadel Broadcasting

Corp., which owns and operates more than 200 radio properties, yanked the Howard Stern show from some of their stations after the shock jock repeatedly uttered two words deeply offensive to the terrestrial radio giant: "satire radio."

A few years ago, the Independent Journal newspaper in Marin, Calif., ran the following TV listing: "Transported to a surreal landscape, a young girl kills the first woman to appear on television with three complete strangers to kill again."

Doesn't sound like something you would want your child to watch, does it? By the way, the listing was for "The Wizard of Oz."

We simply are not alike or of one mind when it comes to what may be fit and proper. Usually there are as many reactions to programming as there are viewers or listeners. And if every one of those listeners or viewers is allowed to take his or her slice out of broadcast expression, there will be little left but pap and pabulum.

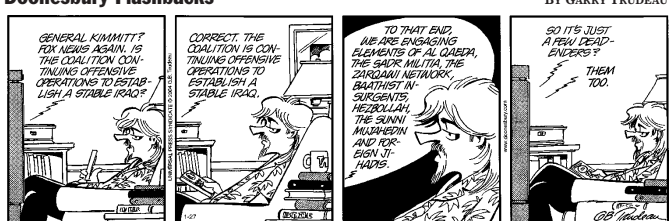
Certainly we have the right to be offended and to take action when we are. But wouldn't we be more like the freedom-loving society we're supposed to be if we merely switched channels or hit the "off" button and trusted our neighbors to do the same? The threat of arrest, FCC fines or lawsuits set off a chain of self-censorship in which artists and authors fear broadcast executives who fear government officials who fear those who complain the most or loudest. That may make the broadcast medium, which hosts much of the continuing conversation Americans have among themselves, less "offensive," but it also will make it less entertaining, less informative, less enlightening — and yes, less free.

And that ain't no joke.

Paul K. McMasters is First Amendment ombudsman at the First Amendment Center in Arlington, Va.

Doonesbury Flashbacks

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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OPINION

Democracy tunnel vision can limit progress

BY RICHARD N. HAASS

The idea, stated forcefully by President Bush in his second inaugural, that the United States would henceforth support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture "with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world" is by any yardstick an important declaration. A foreign policy doctrine, however, it is not.

This is not to suggest that democracy doesn't matter. There is, for example, considerable evidence suggesting that mature democracies tend not to make war on one another. Today's Europe best illustrates this phenomenon.

Promoting democracy can also be useful as one component of the campaign against terrorism. Young men and women who are more involved in their societies and less alienated from their governments might see more reason to live for their causes than to kill and die for them.

With luck, they might choose to become teachers rather than terrorists.

But there are more reasons to conclude that it is neither desirable nor practical to make democracy promotion the dominant feature of American foreign policy. The bottom line is that while the nature of other societies should always be a foreign policy consideration, it cannot and should not always be the foreign policy priority.

To begin with, democracies are not always peaceful. Immature democracies — those that hold elections but lack many of the checks and balances characteristic of a true democracy — are particularly vulnerable to being hijacked by popular passions.

Post-communist Serbia is but one illustration.

It is also difficult to spread democracy. It is one thing to oust a regime, quite another to put something better in its place. Prolonged occupation of the sort the United States carried out in Japan and West Germany after World War II is the only sure-fire way to build democratic institutions and instill democratic culture. But as Iraq demonstrates, the rise of modern nationalism and modern methods of resistance means that such opportunities will be rare, costly and uncertain to succeed, despite an investment of billions of dollars and thousands of lives.

Prospects for the democratic improvement of a society can prove even worse absent occupation. Those who rejoiced 25 years ago in the overthrow of the shah of Iran should reflect on the fact that unattractive regimes can be replaced by something far worse. We thus need to be measured in what pressures we place on such countries as Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Here as elsewhere it is important to observe the Hippocratic oath and first do no harm. Time is a factor in another sense. There is no realistic way that democracy will arrive in either North Korea or Iran before nuclear weapons do. And even if "freedom" were somehow to come to Tehran, it is almost certain that free Iranians would be as enthusiastic as the mullahs are about possessing nuclear weapons.

Trade-offs for the United States are unavoidable. President Bush's statement [last] Thursday that "America's vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one" doesn't hold up to careful scrutiny. The United States has a vital interest in China

THE MEEHNS/SCOTT/REUTERS/CONTRAST



helping to eliminate the North Korean nuclear program, in Russia helping to eliminate the Iranian one, in Pakistan going after al-Qaida, in Israel and Palestinians making peace. We may prefer that China, Russia, Pakistan and Palestine also be democratic, but a preference is something markedly less than a vital interest. The United States simply cannot afford to allow promoting democracy to trump cooperation on what is truly essential. ...

Again, none of this is meant to suggest that the United States should conduct an

amoral foreign policy that ignores what governments are doing to their citizens. We should encourage the rule of law, human rights, and meaningful economic and political participation. But as President Bush acknowledged, "The great objective of ending tyranny is the concentrated work of generations." In the interim, the United States needs a foreign policy that deals with the world as it is.

Richard N. Haass is president of the Council on Foreign Relations. He was director of policy planning for the State Department from 2001 to June 2003. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

'Exclusive' on special ops in Iran is a red herring

Muckracking journalist Seymour Hersh has finally, if inadvertently, done his country a service, thinks my friend Jack Wheeler.

Hersh came to fame through exposing the My Lai massacre in the Vietnam War, and has since specialized in poorly sourced stories that cast the U.S. military in a bad light. In a Jan. 17 New Yorker piece, "The Coming Wars," Hersh asserted that U.S. Special Forces already are in Iran, preparing for full-scale war.

"Mr. Hersh's article is so riddled with errors of fundamental fact that the credibility of his entire piece is destroyed," said Pentagon spokesman Lawrence D. Rita.

A post-election meeting between Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Joint Chiefs of Staff that Hersh describes never took place, D. Rita said.

A supposed new chain of command for command operations headed by Rumsfeld is also a product of Hersh's overheated imagination, he said.

Liberals outraged by the inadvertent outing of CIA officer Valerie Plame in the Niger uranium kerfuffle have uttered not a word of complaint about Hersh's purported exposure of ongoing intelligence operations, though Plame has been safe, while Hersh's disclosures, if true, could put lives at risk.

Washington Times editorial page editor Tony Blankley suggested that Hersh could — and probably should — be prosecuted under the section of the U.S. Code that makes it a crime to, in time of war, communi-

cate to the enemy "any information with respect to the movement, numbers or disposition of any of the armed forces."

Blankley should chill, said Wheeler, a real-life Indiana Jones who spent much of the 1980s with anti-communist resistance movements in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Angola.

"Eastern Iran is a desert," he said. "Iran's nuclear facilities ... are in central Iran south of Tehran. Special ops teams would be sent in via Iraq, not Afghanistan. The story was planted by [CIA Director] Porter [Goss] with Hersh, a left-wing sleaze whose claims could be easily denied — in order to rattle Iran's case."

"Did it ever. Iranian government newspapers were stupid enough to explode in denunciations of Hersh's article, and the speech Iranian leader [Ayatollah Mohammad Khatami] gave in response to it was

nothing short of off-the-wall hysterical. Exactly what Porter and G.W. [Bush] wanted. And yes, a boatload of covert ops are being launched in Iran, but not like Hersh describes," Wheeler said in his newsletter, "To the Point."

Vice President Dick Cheney ramped up the psyops in an interview on the Don Imus radio show. If Iranian nuclear development continues, the Israelis might take out the plants, Cheney said.

But the biggest psyop was the president's inaugural address itself. Liberals profane by having difficulty understanding what Bush meant by his paeon to freedom, but his target audience did not.

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman observed, "The one country on this side of the ocean that would have elected Mr. Bush is ... Iran, where many young people apparently hunger for Mr. Bush to remove

their despotic leaders, the way he did in Iraq ...

"Reports from across Iran are stating about the massive welcoming of President George W. Bush's inaugural speech and his promise of helping to bring down the last outposts of tyranny," said the Student Movement Coordinating Committee for Democracy in Iran (SMCCDI) ...

"Many Iranians, who were looking for the World's super power firm moral support and financial aid to credible secularist opposition groups are now becoming sure that Mr. Bush's agenda is indeed to help them gain Freedom, Secularity and Democracy," SMCCDI said.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Jack Kelly



Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Pretty weeds

WA WENATCHEE — They look like simple yellow flowers amid golden hills, but the blooms on the front of the new North Central Washington telephone book are just weeds.

Even the former U.S. Forest Service employee who won the annual Cover Photo Contest sponsored by Hagadone Directories Inc. knew it showed Dalmatian toadflax, listed as a noxious weed by Washington, Oregon, Idaho and other states.

"It's pretty, but it's very obnoxious," said Terry Nowka, coordinator of the Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board for 13 years. "Every year I catch little old ladies digging it up and planting it in their flower beds."

Faker gets jail time

ME MACHIAS — A 54-year-old man who routinely complained of fake chest pains to avoid paying the tab for restaurant meals may have gotten his just deserts.

Judge sentenced Elias I. Elias to 90 days in jail after he pleaded guilty to theft of services.

The Aug. 5 incident at the Townhouse Restaurant marked the 13th time that Elias tried to skip out on the check by pretending he had trouble breathing and was having a heart attack.

Authorities said Elias would order dinner and drinks, eat and enjoy, then fake his need for medical assistance when the check arrived. He would be taken to a local hospital but usually left before police arrived.

Elias' court-appointed attorney, Jeffrey Davidson, told the judge that the homeless and unemployed man just "wanted to eat a restaurant meal 'like anybody else.'"

Fatal wreck kills three

HI HILO — Three people were killed in a traffic accident in South Kohala, Big Island fire officials said.

One survivor was taken to North Hawaii Community Hospital in extremely critical condition, they said.

The accident occurred on Queen Kaahumanu Highway when two vehicles collided head-on.

The three people who died showed no signs of life when firefighters arrived at the scene, the officials said.

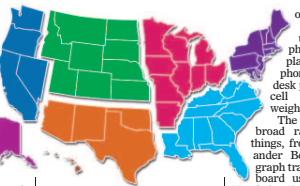
Environmental lottery

NJ TRENTON — The New Jersey Lottery could generate a different kind of green, if plans for a new environmentally beneficial game get off the ground.

Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley Campbell promised to discuss the idea for a lottery game to benefit the environment with the state treasurer, but cautioned that approval of such a game is not a sure thing.

Green Action Alliance Chairman Ed Knorr came up with the idea for the "Best Dam Lottery Game," whose proceeds would be dedicated to public and private well testing for senior citizens and low-income households in the state.

The already lucrative Lottery generated \$765 million for higher education and other institutions in 2003.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Restaurateur kidnapped

TX DALLAS — Days after Oscar J. Sanchez was kidnapped following a staged accident not far from two of the Dallas restaurants his family owns, police shifted from bringing him back alive to searching for his body.

After days of not hearing from his kidnappers, who had once demanded as much as \$3 million, they arrested one of two suspects as he tried to flee the country on an international flight out of Chicago Midway Airport. Another man is believed to be in Mexico.

Police said there could be a third, unknown suspect.

Jose Alberto Felix, 28, told investigators that a homicide had occurred at his Duncanville home, Police Lt. Jan Easterling said.

Police who searched Felix's home reported signs of a bloody struggle. Based on the interview with Felix, Easterling said, authorities believe Sanchez, 30, is dead.

Retro phones

OR EUGENE — Too young to remember those clunky cell phones of the early 1980s? Look no more.

The Telephone Pioneer Museum has got the number of phone lovers and others who are just plain curious.



Just looking around

A baby ebony langur rests Friday with its mother in JungleWorld, the Bronx Zoo's warm and lush tropical Asian rain forest in New York. The baby was born Jan. 12. The ebony langur is native to Indonesia.

ous. The quirky museum in Eugene has phones galore on display — Pink Princess phones, old fashioned desk phones, even a 1980s cell phone about the weight of a brick.

The museum houses a broad range of fascinating things, from replicas of Alexander Bell's harmonic telegraph transmitter to a switchboard used by the Shinko Hotel in Eastern Oregon from 1907 to 1947.

Wichmann said kids who tour the museum want to know where the redial button is on the old phones. He said he holds up his index tells them, "There's your redial, right there."

Motorcycle helmets

ME AUGUSTA — In Maine, where there hasn't been a whisper of a helmet law for 15 years, a proposal to require the protective headgear has suddenly ridden into Augusta.

Maine had a helmet law for a decade before lawmakers repealed it in 1977. Sponsors of bills to bring back the law returned faithfully to the State House for years following repeal, only to be met by determined bikers, clad in leathers, who said "no way" to the proposals.

Now, a bill calling for helmet use by all operators and passengers of motorcycles, on or off the highways, has appeared. It would make Maine the 21st state, along with the District of Columbia, that require helmet use by all motorcycle drivers and their passengers.

The sponsor, Rep. Walter Wheeler, D-Kittery, said he sponsored the bill at the request of an 86-year-old constituent whose young relative was critically injured in a motorcycle accident.

Sex offender arrested

GA CARTERSVILLE — A convicted sex offender wanted for allegedly kidnapping "an 11-year-old boy from his school in Florida was arrested, two days after the boy was found safe.

Frederick Fretz, 42, was arrested after police received a tip that a man resembling him was hitchhiking near Interstate 75 in Cartersville, about 40 miles north of Atlanta.

Authorities in Marion County, Fla., said they had issued two warrants against Fretz, one for violation of parole and another for failure to register as a sex offender, a felony.

There was also a federal warrant issued for kidnapping.

Forehead for sale

NE OMAHA — A Web-page designer who auctioned off the use of his forehead for advertising space is letting it go to his head.

Andrew Fischer, 20, of Omaha, who put his forehead for sale on eBay as advertising space, received \$37,375 on Friday to advertise the snoring remedy SnoreStop. Fischer will display the SnoreStop logo on his forehead for one month.

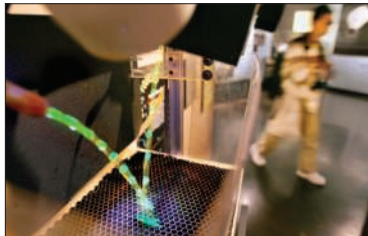
"I look forward to an enjoyable association with Andrew — a man who clearly has a head for business in every sense of the word," SnoreStop CEO Christian de Rivel said.

"People will always comment on something out of the ordinary," Fischer said in his sales pitch. "People like weird."



Walking the line

Ken Carlisle uses a leaf blower Saturday to clear debris from the Z&O Railroad track at Ellen Trout Park in Lufkin, Texas.



Piddling along

Two streams of fluorescent-dyed water exhibit in an interactive display called "remarkable double piddler hydraulic happening machine" as a visitor walks through the Harold Edgerton exhibit at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Museum, in Cambridge, Mass..



Gagged for life

With the Capitol building in the background, pro-life activists Taryn Allen, from Washington, right, and Jesse Haugan, from Ottertail, Minn., fight the cold Saturday in Washington, D.C., to stage a silent protest at the Supreme Court.



Inferno drizzling A firefighter sprays water Sunday on a large pile of burning molded fiber apple and egg crates at the Keyes Fiber plant in Wenatchee, Wash. A storage building was damaged along with large piles of pallets and paper products in the three-alarm fire.



Too cold for man and beast Water vapor freezes around the muzzle of a horse during a workout Monday at the Saratoga Raceway in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The air temperature was -13.



Crystalline rose A red rose is encrusted in a shield of ice at Dewar Nurseries Inc. of Florida in Apopka, Fla., on Sunday as the overnight temperature dropped to 29 degrees.



Pole-ing station Andrew Moreno, 10, spends Sunday trying his fishing luck at Young Park in Las Cruces, N.M.

Shortage of nurses

RI PROVIDENCE — Hospitals say they're straining to find room for the sick in the middle of flu season as a nursing shortage continues.

Roger Williams Medical Center is housing patients in areas normally used for cancer treatment, marshaling administrators to help with non-clinical tasks and calling in staff to work extra shifts.

Officials at Rhode Island Hospital said they're housing the overflow of patients in a former cancer ward in the vacant George Clinic.

Lunch by lobbyists

AR LITTLE ROCK — Most legislators here for their session receive \$110 a day from the state for food and lodging. But many eat at lobbyists' expense. About 50 legislators had lunch recently courtesy of the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association.

They were treated to beef brisket, chicken breasts, chocolate cake and strawberry cake. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, only Wisconsin places an outright ban on all food from lobbyists.

Paying higher taxes

MA BOSTON — The Boston Sunday Globe found that homeowners across the state will pay more this year in property taxes, with double-digit percentage increases in at least 40 cities and towns.

Tax bills are increasing because residential property values continue to rise while commercial values remain steady or decline.

Cuts in state aid and voter-approved overrides of property tax limits are other factors, the newspaper reported.

Gang activity increasing

TX DALLAS — Police officials say gang problems that plagued the city a decade ago are on the rise again. Dallas police reported an 83 percent increase in gang-related arrests last year. Incidents at schools increased from 92 in 2000-2001 to 245 last school year.

Officials believe gang members returning to the streets from prison are contributing to the increase.

Firefighters killed

NY NEW YORK — Two veteran firefighters were killed and four others were seriously injured when they leaped from a fourth-floor window of a burning building in the Bronx. Later, a third firefighter died after fighting a basement fire in Brooklyn.

Lt. Curtis Meyran, 46, of Battalion 26, and Firefighter John Bellow, 37, of Ladder 27, died after battling the Bronx blaze on East 178th Street in the Morris Heights section, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. Three firefighters were in critical condition at St. Barnabas, and a fourth was in serious condition at Jacobi Medical Center.

The Brooklyn firefighter, Richard Scalfani, 37, died at a hospital after being injured at a two-alarm fire in the East New York section, Bloomberg said.

The six Bronx firefighters became trapped in the building while searching for people on the fourth floor, the mayor said.

"When the fire from the third floor broke through to the fourth, they were faced with a horrifying choice," he said. "They jumped out a fourth-floor window, knowing that they would be critically injured."

Search called off

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — The search for a missing single-engine aircraft was suspended more than a week after authorities found no trace of the plane or the 73-year-old Muskogee physician who was flying it, the Civil Air Patrol said.

The small aircraft piloted by Dr. Jack Nolen disappeared on Jan. 14 after it left Paris, Texas, on a flight to Shawnee. The search was focused on a heavily wooded area in Hughes County west of the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant where air traffic controllers last picked up a signal.

"We have followed up everything that we can possibly follow up," CAP Maj. Charles Newcomb said. "We will not reopen it unless something significant develops."

Frightening attack

NH NASHUA — A local man faces charges after police said he poured lighter fluid on a woman and threatened to light her on fire.

Brian Hayward, 18, is charged with reckless conduct and assault after police said he punched the woman several times in the face and body.

Hayward also faces charges for failing to appear in court in a separate case. Police said he being held at the police department until he can be brought to Nashua District Court.

Military spending

CO COLORADO SPRINGS — This southern Colorado city has become the center of military spending in the state, officials say.

Four years ago, 44 percent of the defense spending in Colorado went to El Paso County. Now it has jumped to 61 percent for a total of \$1.5 billion in the last fiscal year. The county is home to five major military posts, including the Air Force Academy. The increased spending has helped the area bounce back from the technology sector bust of recent years.

Prostitution sting

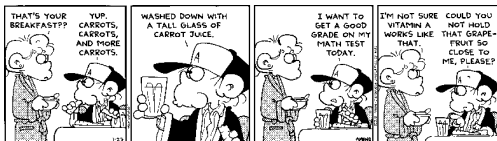
NH NASHUA — A five-month investigation to the arrest of a local man who allegedly ran a Web site offering to pay money for sexual favors.

Police arrested Terry Eddy, 49, after a sting operation and charged him with soliciting sex from an undercover officer. Police said a male officer communicated with Eddy through the Internet and set up a meeting.

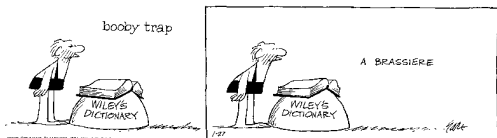
Eddy also was charged with possession of a narcotic drug. He was released on bail and is scheduled to appear in Nashua District Court next month.

Stories and photos from wire services

Fox trot



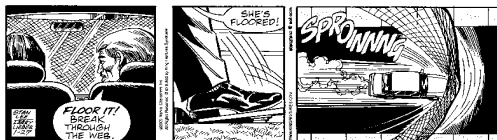
B.C.



Baby Blues



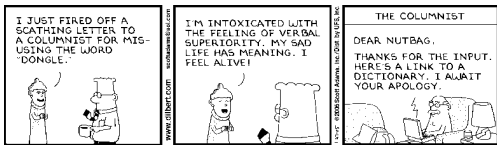
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



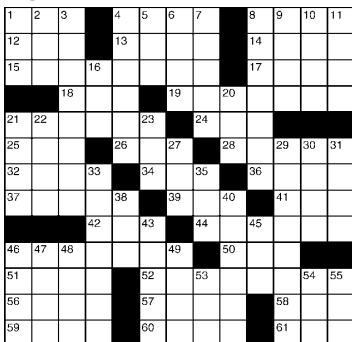
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Thanksgiving
4 Infatuated
8 Hoodlum
12 Swiss canton
13 Ellipse
14 Passenger Parks
15 Graphic illustration
17 Lend a sneaky hand
18 Sticky stuff
19 Product ID
21 Car vibration
24 Trench
25 Oppositionist
26 A billion years
28 "Fuhgeddaboutit!"
32 One side of the Urals
34 Ketch
36 Croupier's tool
37 Whereabout
39 Actor Robbins
41 XIII quadruped
42 Sailor
44 Hammock occupant
46 Law student's challenge
50 Grecian vessel
51 Shakespeare's water
52 Norm Peterson's perch
56 Describe
57 Family-biz abbr.
58 Pair
59 Notion

Down

- 60 "Gotcha"
61 Gaffer Ernie
1 Gist
2 — pro nobis
3 Santa
4 "You Can't — Again!"
5 Ms. Gardner
6 Apparel
7 Sacrifice site
8 Farm machine
9 Vagrant
10 Secondhand
11 Airport exit
16 URL ending
20 Skeddadle
21 Swindle
22 Firetruck necessity
23 Thither
27 Writer Hentoff
29 Minim, in music
30 Tom Joad, e.g.
31 "Master and Commander" director
33 Aerial
35 Hodges of baseball
38 Kenny G's instrument
40 Fluffy dessert
43 Synagogue VIP
45 Museum stuff
46 Indonesian island
47 Enthusiast
48 "The Eternal City"
49 Pathfinder destination
53 Caviar
54 Night bird
55 — Alamos

Answer to Previous Puzzle



I-27

CRYPTOQUIP

NECLE OXHFCBJBU
RNHXXKRFBJ REHVWK
KNBWW CJ HFZJR LZOCUZW?

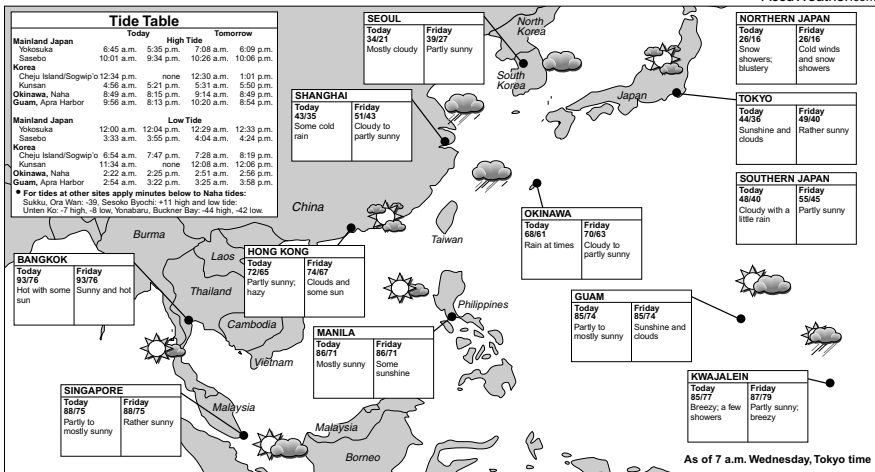
UEB UEXBB FVRLZU-BBXR!
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A MAN TRIES TO COMPEL YOU TO BUY A BOAT, WOULD YOU CONSIDER IT A SAILS PITCH?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals W

The Pacific Forecast

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AccuWeather.com



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 54, low 43.
 Sunday: Partly sunny, high 44, low 28.

KADENA
 Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 74, low 61.
 Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 65, low 54.

SEUL
 Saturday: Snow flurries, high 33, low 4.
 Sunday: Sunny, high 21, low 2.

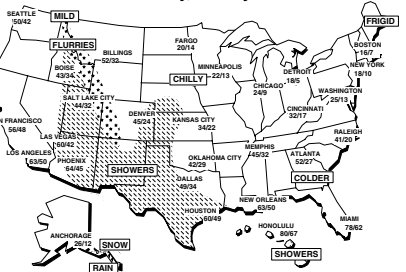
MANILA
 Saturday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 73.
 Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 73.

HAGATNA
 Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 74.
 Sunday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 72.

Tuesday's USA Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Albuquerque | 60/36 | Los Angeles | 67/56 |
| Amarillo | 70/37 | Little Rock | 70/46 |
| Anchorage | 34/22 | Louisville | 51/40 |
| Ashville | 56/36 | Miami | 70/50 |
| Baltimore | 57/30 | Milwaukee | 37/24 |
| Birmingham | 62/49 | Nashville | 58/47 |
| Bismarck | 49/16 | New York | 34/27 |
| Boise | 43/30 | Omaha | 55/28 |
| Boston | 26/16 | Orlando | 67/46 |
| Brownsville | 80/60 | Philadelphia | 36/28 |
| Buffalo | 27/19 | Phoenix | 72/56 |
| Burlington | 11/11 | Pittsburgh | 33/30 |
| Charleston, SC | 57/39 | Portland, OR | 56/44 |
| Charlotte | 57/38 | Portland, ME | 24/7 |
| Christchurch | 78/62 | Salt Lake City | 45/31 |
| Cleveland | 28/13 | San Antonio | 68/55 |
| Columbus, OH | 40/32 | San Diego | 80/70 |
| Duluth | 30/5 | San Jose | 66/50 |
| El Paso | 67/43 | San Luis Obispo | 68/43 |
| Evansville | 65/42 | Seattle | 39/33 |
| Indianapolis | 45/33 | Tampa | 65/50 |
| Jacksonville | 65/42 | Tucson | 68/43 |
| Kansas City | 60/34 | Wichita | 65/38 |

Thursday, January 27



U.S. Extended Forecast

A cold front will sweep through the Southeast Thursday and usher in much colder air from the north. The Northeast will be bitterly cold despite a good deal of sunshine. It will be rather mild across the Plains and Rockies. Rain and mountain snow showers will be scattered about the Great Basin. Aside from a shower or two in Washington, the West Coast will be dry. A storm will crash into the West Coast Friday and spread rain into central and Southern California. The Northwest will also have some inclement weather. Dry but cold conditions will be found in the East. Rain will wet parts of the southern Plains and lower Mississippi Valley. Rain will push into the Southeast on Saturday.

Thursday's Pacific Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Bangkok | 33/76 | Iwakuni | 48/38 |
| Beijing | 41/27 | Kadena AB | 68/61 |
| Camp Casey | 36/19 | Kunsan AB | 40/30 |
| Christchurch | 78/62 | Kwajalein | 85/77 |
| Diego Garcia | 85/77 | Manila | 86/71 |
| Hagatna | 79/74 | Misawa AB | 32/24 |
| Hanoi | 85/68 | Osan | 37/23 |
| Hong Kong | 72/65 | Perth | 65/64 |
| Honolulu | 80/67 | Pusan | 46/34 |

Thursday's World Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|-----------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Accapulco | 90/74 | Kabul | 34/10 |
| Adelaide | 52/37 | Buenos Aires | 88/68 |
| Athens | 88/68 | Kiev | 59/12 |
| Auckland | 72/59 | Cairo | 81/59 |
| Baghdad | 61/39 | Cancun | 80/68 |
| Barbados | 88/70 | Cape Town | 79/52 |
| Barcelona | 33/22 | Geneva | 23/15 |
| Berlin | 26/17 | Istanbul | 48/35 |
| Bermuda | 68/52 | Jerusalem | 68/52 |
| Brussels | 33/24 | Johannesburg | 81/59 |
| | | Moscow | 14/13 |
| | | Oslo | 65/46 |
| | | Paris | 40/35 |
| | | Rio de Janeiro | 34/22 |
| | | Rome | 72/46 |
| | | St. Petersburg | 14/5 |
| | | Stockholm | 24/16 |
| | | Warsaw | 20/9 |



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[illegible]

Sooners' paint job upsets Cowboys

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — With Kevin Bookout and Taj Gray manhandling Oklahoma State in the paint, Oklahoma almost didn't need to shoot from anywhere else.

Bookout scored 23 points and Gray added 22 Monday night as the 13th-ranked Sooners exploited No. 9 Oklahoma State inside and beat the Cowboys 67-57.

The Sooners (16-2, 5-0 Big 12) scored 50 points in the paint and got seven more from the free-throw line. In fact, only four of the team's baskets came from an area that wasn't painted a deep crimson red.

"Pretty much, the goal tonight was to go out there and play tough," Gray said. "It was about rebounding, physical play and toughness."

Bookout was 11-for-15 and Gray was 10-for-14 from the field

Top 25 roundup

against a defense that Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said was poised to be geared toward eliminating Oklahoma's talented big men.

"Our defense was sorry," Sutton said. "We thought there were three keys to the game. One was not to let Gray and Bookout catch the ball easily deep in the basket area. They hit us for 45 points on 29 shots and they also had 14 rebounds."

Oklahoma led by as many as 17 before halftime, but allowed Oklahoma State (14-3, 4-2) to rally within 31-25 less than two minutes into the second half.

But Oklahoma had an answer — and it was more Bookout and Gray.

The tandem scored 11 of the

next 13 points, and Oklahoma State was never again within single digits.

Bookout scored six points during a 10-0 run that put the Sooners back in control. In the middle of the spurt, Drew Lavender came down on a fastbreak, bounced the ball between his legs, and Gray flew in to jam the ball in with his right hand to put Oklahoma ahead 37-27 and get the crowd jumping.

After Bookout dropped in a two-handed layup, Oklahoma's lead was 43-27. The advantage kept growing.

Gray converted a three-point play, Lavender hit a driving layup, and Jason Williams made a three-pointer from the left wing to extend Oklahoma's lead to 51-31.

"Those guys are really good players," Sutton said. "Bookout is trimmed down a little bit. He's a

load down there. He's so wide, and he really is a smart player. He knows how to position himself to get angles. He also knows how to get in the right place for offensive rebounds.

No. 4 Syracuse 86, Rutgers 84: At Piscataway, N.J., Terrence Roberts' three-point play with 7.2 seconds left capped Syracuse's comeback from an 18-point halftime deficit.

The win wasn't secure until Quincy Douby's three-point shot with just more than a second left rolled around the rim and out at the buzzer. The Orange are the first Division I team to reach 20 victories this season.

It was the 13th consecutive win for Syracuse (20-1, 7-0 Big East) and gave coach Jim Boeheim 20 victories for the 27th time in his 29 seasons at his alma mater. He moved into a tie with Texas



Oklahoma forward Taj Gray points to the crowd after scoring on a dunk against Oklahoma State.

Tech's Bob Knight for second place among coaches with 20 win seasons, three behind former North Carolina coach Dean Smith.

No. 25 Utah 63, Air Force 51: At Salt Lake City, Andrew Bogut scored 25 points on 11-for-12 shooting for Utah (17-3, 5-0 Mountain West Conference), which ended the Top 25 on Monday for the first time since being ranked for two weeks in 2002-03.

The Utes, playing under first-year coach Ray Gianoletti, have won 12 straight since losing at Arizona on Dec. 11. They shot a school-record 80 percent from the field (24-of-30) against the nation's No. 1 defense.

Nick Welch had 15 points to lead the Falcons (12-7, 3-1), who lost for just the second time in eight games.

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Agassinas no answer for No. 1 Federer

BY JOHN PYE

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer is playing so perfectly right now that he made Andre Agassi look average.

Defending champion Federer beat the eight-time major winner 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 Tuesday in the Australian Open quarterfinals, taking the punch right out of the best counter-puncher on the circuit.

Federer hit 22 aces and extended his winning streak to 26 matches. He's also won 24 in a row against opponents ranked in the top 10.



"He just outplayed me," Agassi said. "He was too good. I would suggest to his next opponent that he doesn't look to me for advice."

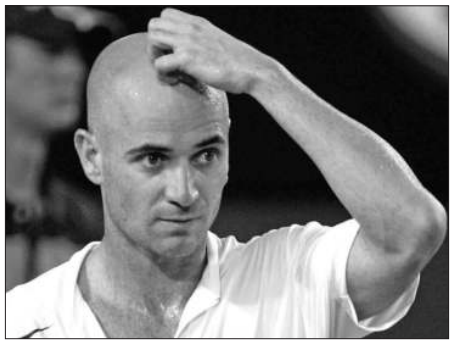
That would be fourth-seeded Marat Safin, who lost to Federer in last year's Australian Open final and will face him this year in the semifinals. Safin ousted No. 20 Dominik Hrbaty 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 and will be far fresher against Federer than in 2004, when the Russian had spent more than 18 hours on court through six matches.

The other men's quarterfinals are No. 2 Andy Roddick vs. No. 26 Nikolay Davydenko, and No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt vs. No. 9 David Nalbandian.

Agassi, who withstood a record 51 aces by Joachim Johansson in the fourth round, had some answers for Federer's serve, eventually the relentless forehands and half-volleys that Federer peppered from all parts of the court were too much.

"I came with high expectations. I wanted tonight to be memorable, but it's one I'd probably prefer to forget," Agassi said. "I never got my teeth into it, and when I don't get my teeth into a match, I can look pretty ordinary."

Federer mesmerized 15,351 fans at Rod



Andre Agassi was left scratching his head on Tuesday by defending Australian Open champion Roger Federer. Federer extended his winning streak to 26 matches in straight sets.

Laver Arena with his array of shots, an eerie hush hanging over the usually vocal pro-Agassi crowd. Rare shouts of "Come on, Andre!" replaced the roars that normally echo around the stadium when Agassi is pounding winners from the baseline.

There was no high drama, nothing like the U.S. Open quarterfinal last September, when Federer won a five-set epic that spanned two days because of a rain delay and ended in high winds.

Federer easily dispatched the 34-year-old Agassi this time, improving to 5-3 head-to-head.

Federer broke Agassi in the sixth game,

then saved four break points while serving for the set. A third ace in that game gave Federer his third set point, and he took a service return from Agassi and turned it into a backhand winner down the line on the next point to seal it.

"I have no secrets," Federer said. "It's like roulette. I always pick the right numbers."

He broke Agassi in the opening games of the second and third sets.

"I always got the good start into each set so I think that made a difference," Federer said. "I could play with the confidence; he couldn't really. So that allowed me to take

chances.

"I served perfectly — he never broke me. So I think that's what made me win."

Federer's 11 titles in 2004 included three Grand Slam events, making him the first man since Mats Wilander in 1988 to win three majors in a season. Now he's trying to become the first to win three straight Slams since Pete Sampras added the 1994 Australian Open to his wins in Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 1993.

Serena Williams once won four straight majors — from the 2002 French Open through the 2003 Australian Open — but she hasn't played that well lately. She'll face Maria Sharapova in the Australian semifinals in a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final.

Williams easily won her quarterfinal, eliminating No. 2 Anettie Mauresmo 6-2, 6-2, while Sharapova was on the verge of exhaustion when she clinched a 4-6, 2-6, 6-2 victory over U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in 2 hours, 17 minutes in the baking sun.

"I thought I couldn't go any more," Sharapova said. "I had just enough to win that match point. That's it."

Williams was mostly bothered by the persistent talk that she and sister Venus have lost the aura they held when they won 10 majors from 1999-03.

"I don't like that kind of language," she said. "I'm tired of not saying anything, but that's not fair. We've been practicing really hard. I've had some serious injuries."

She also discussed the shooting death of half-sister Yelena Price in September 2004.

"We have a very, very close family," Williams said. "To be in some situation that we've been placed in the past little over a year, it's not easy to come out and just perform at your best when you realize there are so many things that are so important."

"We're not declining. I don't have to win this tournament to prove anything. I know that I'm one of the best players out here."

Ordonez meets Detroit's brass

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Free-agent pitcher Magglio Ordonez met Monday with Detroit Tigers owner Mike Ilitch and his top staff.

Sports briefs

Tigers President Don Dombrowski and manager Alan Trammell also attended the meeting, as did associate Mike Florio.

"We were going to go up to Detroit to meet with them. The owner apparently had a business meeting down in Florida," Bora said. "We decided to move the meeting up a day."

"It went well. The Tigers talked about their plans for the future, their interest in Magglio, the advances they made last season."

Ordonez, a four-time All-Star who turns 31 on Friday, hit .292 last season with nine homers and 37 RBIs in 202 at-bats. A career .307 hitter with 187 homers, he missed 36 games after injuring his left knee May 19, then went on the disabled list for good on July 22 with bone marrow edema.

"We've actually had a number of calls prior to this meeting," Bora said after returning home to California. "Their doctors have talked with Magglio's doctors. They're certainly comfortable he'll be ready to go by spring training."

In other baseball news Monday: ■ First baseman Tony Clark agreed to a \$750,000, one-year contract with

his hometown Arizona Diamondbacks.

■ Rich Aurilia and the Reds agreed to a minor league contract that gives the 33-year-old former All-Star the chance to become Cincinnati's starting shortstop.

■ Ben Grieve agreed Monday to a minor league contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates, who will give the 1998 AL Rookie of the Year a shot to make their increasingly crowded outfield.

■ Japanese second baseman Tadahito Iguchi and the White Sox agreed on a two-year contract. Iguchi will get between \$2 million and \$2.5 million per season.

■ Right-hander Brad Penny, obtained by Los Angeles from Florida last summer, agreed to a \$5.1 million, one-year deal with the Dodgers.

Pranger wins men's slam;
Cup leader Miller fails to finish

SCHLADMING, Austria — Austria's Manfred Pranger won his second World Cup slalom in three days on Tuesday, overcoming a timing error that relegated him to fourth instead of second after the opening run.

Pranger, who won the tough slalom in Kitzbuehel on Sunday, won the night event on the tricky Planai course in a combined 1 minute, 47.13 seconds.

American Bode Miller, the World Cup overall leader who was sixth after a conservative opening run, straddled a gate on his second run. Miller has failed to finish six of seven slaloms this season.

Ghostzapper wins horse of the year
over Smarty Jones

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Ghostzapper, who capped an unbeaten season with a stunning Breeders' Cup Classic victory, easily beat Smarty Jones to win Horse of the Year honors at Monday night's Eclipse Awards.

Ghostzapper received 174 votes to Smarty Jones' 95 in balloting by turf writers and racing secretaries. Ghostzapper won all four starts in 2004 and earned \$2.59 million. He won the 1 1/4-mile Classic in a record 1:59.

Michigan basketball player suspended
after domestic violence charge

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Point guard Daniel Horton was suspended from Michigan's basketball team Tuesday, a day after being charged with domestic violence for allegedly choking his girlfriend.

"Given the seriousness and sensitivity of the situation, we feel it is in everyone's best interest that we suspend Daniel pending a further review," coach Tommy Amaker said in a statement.

Horton is free on a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond. If convicted of the misdemeanor charge, he could face up to 93 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Horton has been in all of the Wolverines' best plays the past three seasons. He had 16 points and five assists for the Wolverines (12-7) in a 72-61 loss to Wisconsin on Saturday.

NHL labor talks set to resume this week

BY IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL and the players' association are taking another shot to save the hockey season, which seemingly has been on the brink of cancellation for weeks.

After a two-day meeting last week — initiated by Vancouver Canucks center Trevor Linden — that produced no tangible progress toward a labor agreement, the league and the union will meet Wednesday in Toronto. But no formal proposal will be presented at the league's meeting.

Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said Tuesday his negotiating team met this past week-end to discuss new ideas and address some issues raised by NHL players' Association President NHL last week.

"Both parties agreed at last week's meeting that the time for formal proposals, at least during this process, may be behind us and we should try to sit at the table and discuss through the issues and maybe jointly craft something that might work," Daly told The Canadian Press. "And that's what we're going to continue to do."

The same group of negotiators that met in Chicago and Toronto will gather again: Linden, NHLPA senior director Ted Sackin and outside counsel John McCambridge as well as Daly, board of governors chairman Harold Hotelling and outside counsel Bob Battersman. Again, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow will sit this one out.

The lockout, which reached its 132nd day Tuesday, has cost the league the collection of \$69 of 1,230 regular-season games, plus the All-Star Game.

Owens believes he'll play

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens says his recovery is way ahead of schedule, surprising even his doctor.

Whether the All-Pro wide receiver will be healthy enough to play for the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl remains a mystery.

"What a lot of people don't realize is that I've been doing a lot of rehab on my own, a lot of healing on my own, but spiritually God is healing me and I'm way ahead of where a lot of people expect me to be, even the doctor," Owens said Monday. "He's even shocked at what he's seen. Spiritually I've been healed and believe that I'll come out there on that field Sunday, regardless of what anyone says."

Owens was among several Eagles, including quarterback Donovan McNabb and running back Brian Westbrook, who sat court-side for Monday's NBA game between the Philadelphia 76ers and Miami Heat. Owens, sidelined with an ankle injury since Dec. 19, was all smiles while talking about a possible return for the Feb. 6 Super Bowl against the New England Patriots.

Eagles coach Andy Reid said earlier in the day that Owens has made great progress, and will try to run this week. "I've been doing all my rehab in the pool," Owens said. "He was back on the sideline Sunday for the NFC title game, only this time he served as head cheerleader, flapping his arms, waving a towel and encouraging the crowd to make more noise. The Eagles advanced to the Super Bowl with a 27-10 victory over the Atlanta Falcons."

Owens jogged onto the field and pumped up the crowd during pregame introductions, and jumped around on the bench during the game.

"I enjoyed it," Owens said. "If I could have been out there, I would have been out there. I just showed my support where I can." But making cuts and taking hits are another story.

Owens, who led the Eagles with 77 catches for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs in the two ankle ligaments and broke his right leg in a game against Dallas. A surgeon inserted two screws in Owens' ankle and a plate on the outside of the ankle three days after he was injured.

Owens was told after surgery that he had only an outside chance of returning for the Super Bowl, which was seven weeks away at the time. But he has rehabbed vigorously and has told teammates he's going to play.



Owens

Marlins get Delgado

Free-agent 1B shuns Mets, Rangers, O's after getting four-year, \$52M deal

BY STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Free-agent first baseman Carlos Delgado agreed Tuesday to a \$52 million, four-year contract with the Florida Marlins, who added the left-handed power hitter they've lacked.

The agreement, which contains an option year that makes it potentially worth \$64 million over five seasons, is contingent on Delgado passing a physical Wednesday, the Marlins said. A news conference tentatively is set for Thursday.

Delgado makes Florida perhaps the team to beat in the NL East.

"It's a spectacular day for the franchise," owner Jeffrey Loria said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I'm going to spring training tomorrow. I'm not waiting."

The Marlins won the World Series in 1997 and 2003 but are still seeking their first division title and trying to win support for a new ballpark.

"We're about trying to be a very competitive ballclub, and the stadium will take of itself in due time," Loria said. "But Carlos certainly is not going to hurt that effort."

Delgado's deal calls for him to get \$14 million this year, a baseball official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Delgado receives \$13.5 million in 2006, \$14.5 million in 2007 and

\$16 million in 2008, and the agreement includes a \$16 million option for 2009 that would become guaranteed based on what Delgado does in MVP voting and whether he earns postseason MVP awards.

If the option doesn't become guaranteed, Florida would have the right to exercise a \$12 million option. If the option is declined, Delgado would get a \$4 million buyout.

Delgado chose the Marlins over offers from the New York Mets, Texas and Baltimore.

The Marlins made an initial offer of \$35 million for three years, the richest per-season deal in franchise history, then went even higher. The contract will push their payroll above \$56 million for the first time.

They landed the most formidable left-handed power hitter in their 12-year history. Delgado, 32, hit at least 30 homers each of the past eight seasons in Toronto. Last season he batted .269 with 32 homers and 99 RBIs.

The Marlins were 11th in the NL in runs and 12th in homers last year. Their top left-handed hitter, Juan Pierre, had three home runs.

Even so, Florida was in the race for a wild-card berth until mid-September, finishing 83-79, 13 games behind division-winner Atlanta.

The deal with Delgado was sealed 10 days after he flew from his native Puerto Rico to Miami and spent 5½ hours with Marlins



Carlos Delgado has hit at least 30 homers in each of the past eight seasons in Toronto. Last season he batted .269 with 32 homers and 99 RBIs. The 32-year-old is expected to help an offense that ranked near the bottom of the NL last year in runs (11th) and homers (12th).

officials, including owner Jeffrey Loria.

Delgado's agent, David Sloan, said negotiations with the Rangers fell apart because they wanted him primarily as a designated hitter.

Under the deal, the option year would become guaranteed if Del-

gado accumulates 30 points in the next four years. He would get 10 points for winning the NL MVP award and nine for finishing second and so on under a formula that gives him one point for finishing 10th. He would get 20 points if he's the World Series MVP and 10 if he's the league championship series MVP.

Peak: Brady's playoff career got off to fabled start

PEAK, FROM BACK PAGE

"He has happy feet," Harrison said of Roethlisberger after the game. "He's a rookie. Sometimes he throws the ball up for grabs. We got three and we could have had a few more. That's just being a rookie."

Keep in mind that Brady was practically a rookie himself when his streak began.

Sunday's victory broke the record set a decade ago by Troy Aikman for playoff victories by a quarterback at the start of a career.

But Aikman was 0-11 as a rookie in 1989 and didn't get his first postseason win until after the 1991 season, winning a wild-card game against the Bears in Chicago before losing at the Detroit Lions. The next year, the Cowboys won the first of their three Super Bowls in four seasons — a record the Patriots are now on course to tie.

Brady's first playoff game was one of the most fabled in recent history — the "ruck rule" contest in the snow of Foxboro in January 1998. Brady's apparent fumble seemed to end the Patriots' drive for the tying field goal, but it was overruled by replay when he was said to be tucking the ball away and New England went on to beat

Oakland 16-13 in overtime.

The next week, Brady started the AFC championship game in Pittsburgh, injured his ribs in the first half, and was replaced by Bledsoe, who threw for New England's only offensive touchdown in a 24-17 victory. But Brady was back in time to win the MVP award in the Super Bowl and Bledsoe was traded to Buffalo the next season.

Brady had been a sixth-round draft pick in 2000 after starting only one year at Michigan, where he beat out Drew Hansen for the job. As a rookie, he started as a fourth stringer, threw three passes and completed one for six yards.

Though he didn't go unbeaten, he was as good in 2001 as Roethlisberger was this year.

"It was my second year but my first year as a player," Brady recalled last week. "My rookie year there's no way I could have done what he did. I was awful. I couldn't do anything."

He can do it now.

Perhaps the best demonstration came on the second-quarter touchdown pass to David Givens that gave the Patriots a 17-3 lead Sunday.

On a second-and-5 from the Steelers' 9-yard-line, Givens was

flanked out wide right and had started in motion to the left when Brady put up his hand to stop him because he noticed that only cornerback Willie Williams was out there. He flipped the ball out to Givens, Williams fell and it was an easy touchdown.

Would Roethlisberger have noticed that coverage and made the quick decision? Maybe, but probably not.

A rookie, no matter how successful, is still a rookie.

Tom Brady is not.

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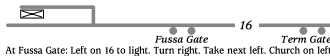
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| Evening Service | 1800 | | |
| Monday | | | |
| Faith Bible Institute | 1830 | | |
| Tuesday | | | |
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Bettis, Burress unsure of future in Pittsburgh

By ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Plaxico Burress seems convinced he has played his final game with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Jerome Bettis isn't so sure about his future.

Bettis, whose comeback following two disappointing seasons was a highlight of the Steelers' unexpectedly good season, addressed his teammates during an emotional meeting Monday that left Times Ward in tears.

While Bettis insists he hasn't made up his mind to retire, Ward fears a 41-27 loss to New England in the AFC championship game Sunday night was The Bird's final appearance for the Steelers.

The thought of the Steelers being without Bettis, especially after he fell one game short of the Super Bowl for the third time with Pittsburgh, left Ward visibly distraught. "We put it all on the line," Ward said Monday, tears streaming down his face. "It's disappointing. I wanted to win more than anything for him. He deserves to be a champion."

Burress, the Steelers' top downfield threat, apparently doesn't think they will make a major effort to re-sign him. He also is disappointed with the limited number of throws that came his way Sunday, though he dropped a fade pass in the end zone that would have pulled Pittsburgh within 37-27 early in the fourth quarter.

"It's Pittsburgh, which speaks for itself. They're not going to change," Burress said. "I'm not going to change. Three or four balls just doesn't suit me very well."

By contrast, Bettis never criticized coach Bill Cowher's decision to start Duce Staley for the first half of the season.

That team-first attitude and Bettis' seven consecutive 100-yard games after Staley was hurt left a major impression on his teammates.

Bettis was in his best shape in years, not missing



Jerome Bettis gave an emotional speech to the Steelers Monday but stopped short of saying he'll retire.

any games due to injury while averaging nearly 113 yards in eight starts. His footwork and ability to cut also were visibly better than a season ago.

"I'm still in the middle of the road," said Bettis, who'll be 33 next month. "I need to get away from it and the loss and just take some time away."

Bettis said he talked to his teammates not to tell them goodbye, but because it might be the last time this group of Steelers would be together.

"I need to look at it and let my body tell me what to do," Bettis said. "If physically I can come back and be as productive as I was this year, then that's something that I would like to do. But if I can't, then I don't want to be out there and I don't want to take away from this football team."

The Steelers must restructure Bettis' contract again if he returns. Bettis is due to make \$4,484,000, with a cap value of \$5,484,000, in 2005.

Burress' departure after five seasons would take away quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's top deep threat and also require the Steelers to add another receiver via the draft or free agency.

Burress missed five of Pittsburgh's last six regular season games with a sore hamstring, causing him to finish with 35 catches — 43 fewer than two seasons ago.

"Everybody keeps telling me what an important person I am on this football team, but you can't justify that for me right now," Burress said. "Just look at the whole season — it speaks for itself."

Pennington has torn rotator cuff

The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington has a torn right rotator cuff, an injury he played with for the final six games of the season.

Pennington was hurt Nov. 7 against Buffalo when he hit hard after a scramble. An initial MRI exam showed the tear, but the team announced Pennington had a strain. After sitting out three weeks, Pennington returned to play.

Team doctor Elliot Pellman revealed the extent of the injury Tuesday. Pellman said the team is hopeful Pennington will be ready for the start of training camp in July but made no promises.

He said Pennington can't back because there was a minimal risk to damaging the shoulder further. But it appeared Pennington lost velocity on his passes once he did return, and coach Herman Edwards said the franchise quarterback was playing through pain.

A second MRI following their 20-17 overtime loss to Pittsburgh in the second round of the playoffs showed there was no additional damage.

Pennington will have surgery shortly after the Super Bowl on Feb. 6. Renowned specialist James Andrews will perform the surgery.

"We are optimistic Chad will do absolutely fine," Pellman said. "But as you know, there are black holes with any surgery. We'll have to wait and see."

The severity of the injury is disconcerting, because rotator cuff tears are uncommon for quarterbacks. Pitchers are the most likely athletes to sustain the injury, and many take up to a year to fully recover. But quarterbacks do not throw the ball as hard and have fewer motions, so the recovery time could take as few as six months.

Ex-Dolphins coach Bates takes over Packers defense

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Jim Bates was hired Monday as defensive coordinator of the Green Bay Packers, marking the second time in two years the team has changed coordinators after losing in the playoffs.

Bates spent 4½ years as Miami's defensive coordinator be-

NFL Briefs

fore taking over as interim coach last year when Dave Wannstedt resigned at midseason. Bates led the Dolphins to a 3-4 record. The team was 1-8 when Wannstedt quit.

After the season, the Dolphins hired Nick Saban as head coach, and Bates decided to leave. He takes over a unit that struggled with pass coverage and poor tackling last season. The Packers ranked 25th in the NFL in total defense and made only eight interceptions.

Green Bay still won the NFC North, but gave up four touchdown passes to Daunte Culpepper in a 31-17 wild-card playoff loss to the Minnesota Vikings at Lambeau Field.

Within days, team president Bob Harlan stripped coach Mike Sherman of his duties as general manager and hired Ted Thompson to take over as GM.

Bates replaces Bob Slowik, who was promoted to defensive coordinator after Ed Donatelli was fired a year ago following a playoff loss in Philadelphia.

Bates will have a new staff to work with in Green Bay. Defensive backs coach Kurt Schlichter took the same position with St. Louis, and defensive line coach Jethro Franklin left the Packers to take a similar job at QB coach

Bucs hire Hackett as QB coach

TAMPA, Fla. — Less than a week after resigning as New York Jets offensive coordinator, Paul Hackett was hired Monday as quarterbacks coach for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The move reunites Hackett with Jon Gruden, who spent one season as an assistant under his former mentor when Hackett was the head coach at the University of Pittsburgh in the early 1990s. Hackett left the Jets last Wednesday, four days after a 20-17 overtime loss to Pittsburgh in the second round of the playoffs. He has been under mounting pressure and constant criticism because of his unimaginative play-calling.

Gruden jumped at the opportunity to bring him to Tampa Bay as a replacement for John Shoop.

Roethlisberger had broken toes

By ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger broke a couple of toes on his right foot during the Steelers' AFC title game loss to the Patriots, but he doesn't blame the injury for his error-riddled play.

Roethlisberger didn't specify Tuesday which toes were broken, and he wasn't walking with a limp. He believes he was hurt while stumbling on a 13-yard run late in the first half.

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NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Philadelphia | 21 | 47 | .31 |
| Lakers | 22 | 46 | .32 |
| Toronto | 18 | 49 | .26 |
| New York | 15 | 52 | .29 |

| Southeast Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Miami | 20 | 48 | .30 |
| Orlando | 15 | 53 | .28 |
| Charlotte | 22 | 46 | .33 |
| Atlanta | 18 | 50 | .26 |

| Central Division | | | |
|------------------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Cleveland | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| San Antonio | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| Chicago | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| Indiana | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| Minneapolis | 15 | 54 | .22 |

Western Conference

| Pacific Division | | | |
|------------------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| San Antonio | 20 | 47 | .30 |
| Dallas | 19 | 48 | .29 |
| Los Angeles | 22 | 46 | .33 |
| Phoenix | 23 | 45 | .34 |
| Utah | 18 | 50 | .26 |

| Northwest Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Seattle | 28 | 38 | .43 |
| Minnesota | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| Portland | 23 | 43 | .35 |
| Portland | 16 | 40 | .29 |
| Portland | 18 | 38 | .32 |

| Monday's games | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|------|
| Philadelphia 106, Miami 99 | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| Washington 100, Cleveland 97 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Atlanta 83, Detroit 83 | T | 1 | 67.3 |
| Portland 107, Dallas 99 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| LA Clippers 97, Orlando 97 | L | 1 | 67.3 |

| Tuesday's games | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|------|
| Boston at Charlotte | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| New York at Orlando | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| New Jersey at Sacramento | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| LA Lakers | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| Wednesday's games | | | |
| Indiana at Boston | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| Miami at Toronto | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Philadelphia at Washington | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Phoenix at Detroit | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Phoenix at Milwaukee | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| San Antonio at New Orleans | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Seattle at Utah | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Dallas at Portland | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Golden State at LA Lakers | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| LA Clippers | W | 1 | 67.3 |

| Thursday's games | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|------|
| Detroit at Indiana | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| San Antonio at Sacramento | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Portland at LA Lakers | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| LA Clippers | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| Friday's games | | | |
| San Antonio at Portland | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| LA Lakers at LA Clippers | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| LA Clippers | W | 1 | 67.3 |

67ers, Magic, Heat 98

| Miami | | | |
|-------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| MIAMI | 21 | 47 | .31 |
| MIAMI | 22 | 46 | .32 |
| MIAMI | 18 | 49 | .26 |
| MIAMI | 15 | 52 | .29 |

| Philadelphia 106, Miami 99 | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|------|
| Washington 100, Cleveland 97 | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| Atlanta 83, Detroit 83 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Portland 107, Dallas 99 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| LA Clippers 97, Orlando 97 | L | 1 | 67.3 |

76ers, Magic, Heat 98

| Miami | | | |
|-------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| MIAMI | 21 | 47 | .31 |
| MIAMI | 22 | 46 | .32 |
| MIAMI | 18 | 49 | .26 |
| MIAMI | 15 | 52 | .29 |

| Philadelphia 106, Miami 99 | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|------|
| Washington 100, Cleveland 97 | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| Atlanta 83, Detroit 83 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Portland 107, Dallas 99 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| LA Clippers 97, Orlando 97 | L | 1 | 67.3 |

| Miami | | | |
|-------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| MIAMI | 21 | 47 | .31 |
| MIAMI | 22 | 46 | .32 |
| MIAMI | 18 | 49 | .26 |
| MIAMI | 15 | 52 | .29 |

Wizards 106, Cavaliers 97

| Washington 106, Cavaliers 97 | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|------|
| Washington 106, Cavaliers 97 | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| Washington 106, Cavaliers 97 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Washington 106, Cavaliers 97 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Washington 106, Cavaliers 97 | L | 1 | 67.3 |

| Cleveland | | | |
|-----------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| CLEVELAND | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| CLEVELAND | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| CLEVELAND | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| CLEVELAND | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| CLEVELAND | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Washington | | | |
|------------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| WASHINGTON | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| WASHINGTON | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| WASHINGTON | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| WASHINGTON | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| WASHINGTON | 15 | 54 | .22 |

Bulls 107, Hawks 82

| Chicago | | | |
|---------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| CHICAGO | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| CHICAGO | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| CHICAGO | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| CHICAGO | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| CHICAGO | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Chicago | | | |
|---------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| CHICAGO | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| CHICAGO | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| CHICAGO | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| CHICAGO | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| CHICAGO | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Chicago | | | |
|---------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| CHICAGO | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| CHICAGO | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| CHICAGO | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| CHICAGO | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| CHICAGO | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Timberwolves 86, Pistons 83 | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|------|
| Timberwolves 86, Pistons 83 | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| Timberwolves 86, Pistons 83 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Timberwolves 86, Pistons 83 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Timberwolves 86, Pistons 83 | L | 1 | 67.3 |

| Detroit | | | |
|---------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| DETROIT | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| DETROIT | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| DETROIT | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| DETROIT | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| DETROIT | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Minnesota | | | |
|-----------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| MINNESOTA | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| MINNESOTA | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| MINNESOTA | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| MINNESOTA | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| MINNESOTA | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Detroit | | | |
|---------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| DETROIT | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| DETROIT | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| DETROIT | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| DETROIT | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| DETROIT | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Rockets 89, Magic 78 | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|------|
| Rockets 89, Magic 78 | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| Rockets 89, Magic 78 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Rockets 89, Magic 78 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Rockets 89, Magic 78 | L | 1 | 67.3 |

| Orlando | | | |
|---------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| ORLANDO | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| ORLANDO | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| ORLANDO | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| ORLANDO | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| ORLANDO | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Houston | | | |
|---------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| HOUSTON | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| HOUSTON | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| HOUSTON | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| HOUSTON | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| HOUSTON | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Trail Blazers 107, Spurs 99 | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|------|
| Trail Blazers 107, Spurs 99 | W | 1 | 67.3 |
| Trail Blazers 107, Spurs 99 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Trail Blazers 107, Spurs 99 | L | 1 | 67.3 |
| Trail Blazers 107, Spurs 99 | L | 1 | 67.3 |

| San Antonio | | | |
|-------------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| SAN ANTONIO | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| SAN ANTONIO | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| SAN ANTONIO | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| SAN ANTONIO | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| SAN ANTONIO | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Portland | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| PORTLAND | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| PORTLAND | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| PORTLAND | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| PORTLAND | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| PORTLAND | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Portland | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| PORTLAND | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| PORTLAND | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| PORTLAND | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| PORTLAND | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| PORTLAND | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Portland | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| PORTLAND | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| PORTLAND | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| PORTLAND | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| PORTLAND | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| PORTLAND | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Portland | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| PORTLAND | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| PORTLAND | 22 | 44 | .33 |
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| Portland | | | |
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| Team | W | L | Pct |
| PORTLAND | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| PORTLAND | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| PORTLAND | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| PORTLAND | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| PORTLAND | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Portland | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| PORTLAND | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| PORTLAND | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| PORTLAND | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| PORTLAND | 18 | 53 | .25 |
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| Portland | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| PORTLAND | 24 | 46 | .34 |
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| PORTLAND | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| PORTLAND | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| PORTLAND | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Portland | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| PORTLAND | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| PORTLAND | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| PORTLAND | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| PORTLAND | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| PORTLAND | 15 | 54 | .22 |

| Portland | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| PORTLAND | 24 | 46 | .34 |
| PORTLAND | 22 | 44 | .33 |
| PORTLAND | 20 | 51 | .28 |
| PORTLAND | 18 | 53 | .25 |
| PORTLAND | 15 | 54 | .22 |

Conference leaders upset Iverson leads 76ers over Heat; Spurs stunned in Portland

The Associated Press

Allison Iverson saves his best for big matchups. The Portland Trail Blazers' outstanding performance was much more surprising.

Boosted by a boisterous home crowd, Iverson scored 45 points and handed out 11 assists Monday night to lead the Philadelphia 76ers over Shaquille O'Neal and the Miami Heat.

"He was spectacular," Sixers coach Jim O'Brien said. "Those stars are beyond belief."

The injury-riddled Trail Blazers also opened some eyes, defeating the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs 107-99 behind Damon Stoudamire's 23 points and nine assists.

Portland stopped a six-point losing streak and won for the third time in 17 games despite playing without its top two players, Zach Randolph and Shareef Abdur-Rahim, as well as guard Derek Anderson.

"Sometimes you have to step up to the challenge when you are playing the best," Stoudamire said.

Joel Przybilla added 17 points and 16 rebounds and the Blazers, which shot 56 percent and kept the Spurs at bay when they tried to rally in the second half.

Ruben Patterson, who finished with 15 points and eight rebounds, and Darius Miles, who scored 21 off the bench, made key plays for the Blazers in the fourth quarter.

"It was a gutsy game," coach Lawrence Frazier said.

Tim Duncan had 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs (34-10), who had won four straight and were coming off a 103-73 win over Sacramento on Sunday night.

At Philadelphia, Samuel Dalembert had 16 points

and 11 rebounds for the Sixers, who took over down the stretch.

O'Neal scored 24 points and Dwyane Wade had 17 points and 11 assists for the Heat, who are just 5-6 since a 14-game winning streak.

"We can't keep playing like this," he said. "I was telling the guys in the shower we have 40 games left and we need to go 30-10."

Wizards 106, Cavaliers 97: At Cleveland, Anthony Peeler made three three-pointers and scored all 14 of his points in the fourth quarter, and Gilbert Arenas scored 30 to help Washington rally.

The Wizards, who scored just 30 points in the first half, overcame a 17-point deficit to win for the 10th time in 12 games.

LeBron James just missed his third triple-double in four games, finishing with 31 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists.

Rockets 89, Magic 78: At Houston, Yao Ming had 22 points and 10 rebounds, Jon Barry scored 19 and the Rockets won their third straight despite playing without leading scorer Tracy McGrady.

Houston completed a two-game season sweep of the Magic in five games, proving that — at least for now — it got the better of the summer blockbuster trade that involved McGrady and Steve Francis.

HOME TEAM

Last piece of Class puzzle?

Return of senior Davis 'completes' Osan girls team

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Michelle Chandler was braced for change. Her Taegu American squad had had its way with Osan American the first time the girls basketball teams faced each other two weeks earlier. But the Cougars fielded only six players in that Jan. 8 game; starting shooting guard Sharon Kroening was out with an injury. And before last Saturday's rematch, rumors flew that Mina Davis, a three-year Osan starter who transferred in June to North Carolina, was on her way back to Korea — and the Osan lineup.

"I know things will be different," Chandler said before the game.

They were: The Cougars won 54-47. Davis scored 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, junior center Margaret Nure added 20 points and 19 rebounds and Kroening scored eight points.

The Cougars were "much better" than before, Chandler said, adding that Davis' presence makes them "complete."

"Mina is aggressive, she gets her points and shoots well at the free-throw line. She's another threat. Osan's girls were really intense," she said.

The Cougars are 9-3 in the Korean-American Intercollegiate Activities Conference. Davis' return has them eyeing the Far East Class A Tournament throne they occupied in 2001 and '02.

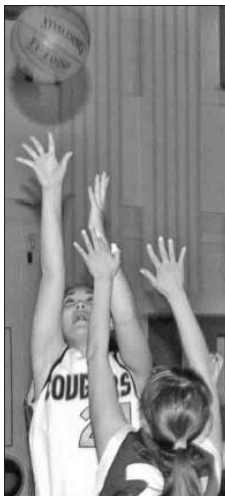
"Most of this team is made of seniors," Davis said, "and we want to make our last year memorable. I think we'll do pretty good."

With Davis back, "I think we'll be competitive, even more so, perhaps," coach Bruce Barker said.

Her return capped an odyssey that took the slender 5-foot-9 swingman from Osan to the States and back in less than six months. Her father, Ernie, is a retired Air Force chief master sergeant who'd spent the previous three years at Osan. He'd always intended to return to Korea. But the first stop after retirement was Fayetteville, N.C., where Mina found herself at Overhills High — a first-year school with an enrollment 10 times the size of Osan American's 120 or so.

"Getting used to the school" was the biggest challenge, she said. "It had over 1,000 people and so it was hard meeting new people. But after a couple of weeks, everything was good."

She tried out for Overhills High's Lady Jaguars and made the varsity team.



Courtesy of Senior Airmen Chris Willis

Osan American senior Mina Davis, left, a two-time All-Far East player, spent the first months of the school year at Overhills High in Spring Lake, N.C., where she averaged 15 points, 7 rebounds and 10 assists for the Lady Jaguars. She's averaged 17.3 points and 9.5 rebounds since returning to Osan.

"I felt pretty intimidated because the school was really big, so I figured there were going to be players bigger and better," she said. "But I seemed to fit in well."

Well enough to average 15 points, seven rebounds and 10 assists in her brief time there,

including a season-high 32 points in Overhills' 52-24 victory — the school's first-ever — over Knightdale on Dec. 1.

Rather than the disciplined, half-court system Barker used at Osan, basketball at Overhills seemed to Davis a bit more free-wheeling. "Street Ball vs. Barker Ball," she called it. "Mr. Barker teaches us and makes us execute our plays," she said. "Over there, we never really learned on plays. It was more fast-break stuff."

But "being a small person in the States playing against a lot of bigger players kind of built up my confidence," she said.

In December, the elder Davis took a civil-service job at Camp Humphreys, just south of Osan, and the family moved again.

Mina said she was ambivalent about leaving Osan but having earned her spot on the Lady Jaguars, she then hesitated to leave the States. "I had finally settled down in North Carolina and everything was good," she said. "I actually liked basketball over there and meeting new people. And the shopping. But I missed Korea, too."

Returning felt almost as if she'd never left, Davis said. "Nothing really changed."

Except the Cougars' performance. Osan went 4-2 its first six games; Nure averaged 17.2 points and 12.8 rebounds. But Osan went 5-1 after Davis returned, averaging 17.3 points and 9.5 rebounds. Nure's numbers improved to 17.7 and 15.3. And before Davis' return, Kroening did not play in three games and scored just 16 points in the other three — but with Davis in the lineup, Kroening has averaged 11.3 points, 4.8 assists and 2.5 steals. The only loss was a 59-42 setback Jan. 15 against Seoul American.

"Sharon and I have played together for so long, we know what we have to work with," Davis said.

"Most of those girls have played together for a while," Barker said. "It helps." Containing the Cougars, said Chandler, is a chore — especially with the 6-foot Nure.

"You're not going to stop Mina, you're not going to stop Margaret. They're going to score," she said. "I think we can still compete. We're just going to have to step it up."

Having come so close the past few years might motivate the Cougars, Davis said.

"Everyone has improved. We just have to learn from previous mistakes and move on," she said. "I have a good feeling about KAIAF and Far East."

E-mail: Dave Ornauer at: ornaup@psrpress.org

This week's schedule

Boys basketball
Friday, Jan. 28
Zama American at Matthew C. Perry, 5:30 p.m.; Nille C. Kinicki at Robert D. Edgren, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 29
Kinicki at Edgren, 10 a.m.; Zama at M.C. Perry, 10 a.m.; American School in Japan at Yokota, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 1
Zama at Kinicki, 5:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Int'l at Christian Academy in Japan, 5:30 p.m.; Yokota at ASU, 5:30 p.m.

Girls basketball
Friday, Jan. 28
Zama American at Matthew C. Perry, 5:30 p.m.; American School in Japan at Yokota, 11 a.m.; Int'l School of the Sacred Heart at Christian Academy in Japan, 5:30 p.m.; Robert D. Edgren at Nille C. Kinicki, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 29
Zama at M.C. Perry, 10 a.m.; Yokota at Seisen Int'l, 5:30 p.m.; CAJ at ASU, 10 a.m.; Edgren at Kinicki, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 1
Zama at Int'l School of the Sacred Heart, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 2
Kinicki at Edgren, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 2
American School in Japan at Yokota, 5:30 p.m.; Zama American at St. Mary's Int'l, 5:30 p.m.; Christian Academy in Japan at Nille C. Kinicki, 5:30 p.m.

Korea
Friday, Jan. 28
Taegu American at Seoul American, 2:30 p.m.; Korea Int'l at Pusam American, 3:30 p.m.; Korea Kent Foreign Int'l at Christian-Pyeongtaek, 3:30 p.m.; Seoul Int'l at Gail American, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 29
Osan American at Seoul American, 9 a.m.; Korea Kent Foreign Int'l at Pusam American, 9 a.m.; Int'l Christian-School at Int'l Christian-Pyeongtaek, 9 a.m.; Taegu American, 1 p.m.; Korea Int'l at Int'l Christian-Pyeongtaek, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 1
Int'l Christian-School at Korea Kent Foreign, 8:30 p.m.; Korea Int'l at Centennial Christian, 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 2
Seoul Int'l School of the Sacred Heart at Taegu American at Pusam American, 3:30 p.m.; Int'l Christian-Pyeongtaek at Taegu Christian Int'l, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 29
Taegu American at Seoul American at Osan American, 11 a.m.

Boys basketball
Saturday, Jan. 29
Hoshibaru, 2 p.m.; Futatabi at Kubasaki, noon

Tuesday, Feb. 1
Kadena at Futatabi, 7 p.m.; Kubasaki at Oroku, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball
Saturday, Jan. 29
Urasoe Shogyo at Kadena, 10 a.m.; Futatabi at Kubasaki, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 1
Kadena at Futatabi, 7 p.m.; Kubasaki at Kozu, 5 p.m.

Osan
(all start times 5:30 p.m.)
Friday, Jan. 28
St. John's at John F. Kennedy; Simon Sanchez at St. John F. Kennedy; Memorial at St. John F. Kennedy; Father Duane Memorial at St. John F. Kennedy

Saturday, Jan. 29
St. John F. Christian at Father Duane Memorial; Simon Sanchez at St. John F. Kennedy; Simon Sanchez at St. John F. Kennedy; Simon Sanchez at St. John F. Kennedy; Simon Sanchez at St. John F. Kennedy; Simon Sanchez at St. John F. Kennedy

Harvest Christian Academy at St. Paul Christian Academy; George Washington at St. Paul Christian Academy; Father Duane Memorial at St. Paul Christian Academy; Simon Sanchez at St. Paul Christian Academy; Simon Sanchez at St. Paul Christian Academy

Upper Tipton
Friday, Jan. 28
Simon Sanchez at John F. Kennedy; Simon Sanchez at John F. Kennedy; Simon Sanchez at John F. Kennedy; Simon Sanchez at John F. Kennedy; Simon Sanchez at John F. Kennedy

Game of the week
Boys basketball
Nille C. Kinicki (10-0) at Robert D. Edgren (5-9)
When: Friday, Jan. 28 at Saturday, Jan. 29, 21:00 to be announced.
Where: Robert D. Edgren High School, Misawa Air Base, Japan

What: Meeting of last year's Japan Basketball League champion and this season's challenger.

Players to watch: Kinicki has been led by his star, Paul Bland, who has averaged 22 points. Travis Exmark has averaged 17 points and 11 rebounds and 10 assists. Edgren's team is led by Edgren last season's MVP, who is scoring 15 points per game. Edgren's team is led by Edgren last season's MVP, who is scoring 15 points per game. Edgren's team is led by Edgren last season's MVP, who is scoring 15 points per game.

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Draonne Johnson

Boys basketball
E.J. King, Japan

Johnson, a senior and co-MVP of last year's Far East Class A Tournament at Osan Air Base, South Korea, scored 35 points in the Cobras' title-clinching 87-82 victory over St. Maur International. Johnson had 38 as the Cobras beat host Seisen (64-41) in the semifinals, 30 to a 76-70 loss to St. Maur and 28 to E.J. King's 80-70 victory over Canadian Academy.

"Draonne represents all that is positive about Cobras basketball," first-year coach Dan Schupfetter said. "Draonne is a very positive, outgoing person who thrives under comp and enjoys the challenges on and off the court. He is an excellent leader with fantastic work ethic and an even greater desire to see his team win."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Ka'leen Mathieu

Girls basketball
Kubasaki, Okinawa

Last week: Scored 40 points (21 in the fourth quarter), helping when one point of the Pacific Game scoring record, to help the Dragons rally from a 13-point third-quarter deficit for a 77-74 victory Friday over Urasoe Shogyo.

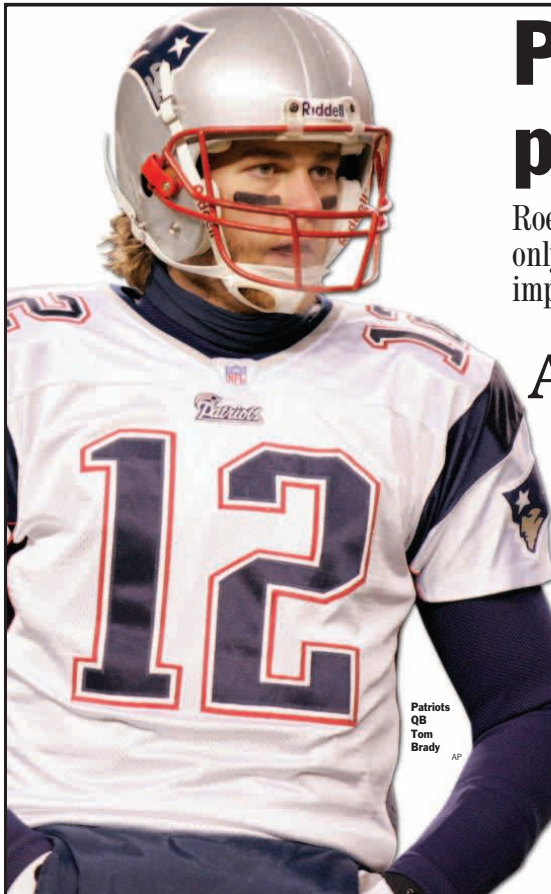
Mathieu also had 12 rebounds. Having missed the previous week of practice due to the flu, Mathieu, a senior swingman, sat out the first quarter. The Pacific record was set in February 2003 by Yvonne Seales of Robert D. Edgren.

Last season coach Robert Driggs employed Mathieu as a "defensive stopper" on opposing teams' most dangerous threats but "this year she plays a different role," Driggs said. "Everybody has to be a contributor. It just so happens a lot of (scoring) chances end up in her hands," he said. "She's kind of an all-around. She's a team player. She gets it done."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

SPORTS

Eagles WR Owens believes
injured ankle will be healed
in time for Super Bowl, Page 28



Patriots
QB
Tom
Brady

AP

Pats' peak performer

Roethlisberger's struggles only accentuate Brady's impressive postseason résumé

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

As Tom Brady prepares for his third Super Bowl and Ben Roethlisberger heads home, Big Ben's playoff struggles only accentuate how remarkable Brady's 8-0 postseason record is. Brady took over in 2001 for the injured Drew Bledsoe in the second regular-season game after throwing just three passes as a rookie. Four months later, he was the Super Bowl MVP.

And he still hasn't lost a playoff game.

"Yeah, sometimes I'm a little surprised by how fast it's happened," he said after throwing two touchdown passes in the Patriots' 41-27 victory over Pittsburgh in Sunday's AFC championship game. "But I've had so many good people around me to help me. It's a team effort, not my effort."

OK, so Brady's right: It's almost a cliché now that the Patriots are the ultimate team, and that's why New England is a 7-point favorite over Philadelphia as it seeks to win its third Super Bowl in four seasons on Feb. 6 in Jacksonville.

But Brady — every season more like his boyhood idol Joe Montana — is a remarkable athlete himself. To find out just how remarkable, one need only look as far as Roethlisberger's playoff troubles.

Big Ben had the best rookie season ever by a quarterback, with 14 straight wins, eight more than the next best. But he hit the wall in the playoffs — as rookies at every position often do. He threw two interceptions against the Jets. One was returned for a touchdown; the other came late in the game and could have knocked the Steelers out of the playoffs had Jets kicker Doug Brien not missed from 43 yards.

Against the Patriots, Roethlisberger's first pass was tipped by Asante Samuel and intercepted by Eugene Wilson to set up Adam Vinatieri's field goal that got New England off to a 3-0 lead.

Just before the half, with Pittsburgh trailing 17-3, he got suckered by Rodney Harrison, an 11-year veteran, who intercepted the ball and returned it 87 yards for a score that made it 24-3 at the half.

That put Steelers in catchup mode, something a rookie quarterback just can't do against a team like New England. Montana maybe. Maybe Brady or Peyton Manning or Daunte Culpepper. But not Roethlisberger, whose success was in large part due to a strong supporting cast — the very thing Brady credits for his own achievement.

Wilson ended up getting a second interception later and Samuel dropped a couple he might have had.

SEE PEAK ON PAGE 28

Iverson scores 45
as 76ers defeat
East-leading Heat;
West leaders
Spurs taken down
by Trail Blazers

Page 30



Prized
free
agent
Delgado
agrees
to 4-year, \$52M
deal with Marlins

Page 28



Australian Open:
Defending champ
Federer makes
quick work
of Agassi

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